

THE TIMES

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guide to the key
constituencies, page 16

Clash on economy sets stage for polling day

In the eve of today's poll, the main political leaders clashed again yesterday over the seriousness of the economic crisis. Mr Heath spoke of Labour's cover-up operation and said only the Conservatives had the moral and political authority to call on Britain to

make the necessary sacrifices. Mr Wilson replied that Britain faced a grave crisis but was not heading for catastrophe; the situation was not as serious as last February. So confident is Mr Wilson of a working majority (Hugh Noyes writes) that he is plan-

ning his first Cabinet meeting, probably on Tuesday. It is understood that he will keep his present team, with the possible exception of Mr Mellish, the Chief Whip. Mr Thorpe, for the Liberals, yesterday repeated his call for a break-up of the two-party system.

Grave crisis but no catastrophe ahead, Mr Wilson says

David Wood, political Editor. About 40 million voters have the opportunity to go to the polls today to decide which party or combination of parties will bring the United Kingdom through the economic crisis that all leaders have agreed throughout the campaign to meet. The three main parties described the crisis as the most serious since 1945, or even 1931. All the principal party spokesmen have consistently held the same language. But yesterday, on the eve of it, Mr Wilson and Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, both challenged Mr Heath's description of the gravity of the crisis.

"Once more", Mr Heath charged at his headquarters conference, "we see on the final day of the campaign new facts breaking out which show the truth. Labour's operation cover-up has been aimed to hide it. Only the Conservative Party, would have the moral or political authority to call on Britain for the kind of sacrifices necessary to meet the peril. Mr Wilson retorted angrily within the hour that the Conservative Party are acting at the end of this campaign as though they are convinced that it is to their advantage to sell Britain short—one of the hitherto accusations in all Mr Wilson's polemical range. "Britain faces a grave economic crisis", he conceded. "We have made this clear

through this election, through the election, and for many months before. But Britain is not heading for catastrophe. The situation is serious, but it is not as serious as it was last February." Mr Healey's economic prospects were almost sanguine. Asked what message he would give to the outside world, he said: "I would ask them to look at the objective facts published by the British Government, IMF (International Monetary Fund) or Common Market Commission. They do that, and that is why they have shown confidence in Britain over the past seven months. "Our balance of payments has been improving while the United States' has been deteriorating. We have been maintaining

a fairly steady level in our balance of trade as a whole, but the non-oil deficit has been cut by half since the beginning of the year while the oil deficit has been increasing. On the balance of trade we are doing better, while many others are tending to do worse. On inflation, we are tending to do better while others—though not Germany—are doing worse." Output, he said, was the disappointing thing. It fell during the three-day week by 3½ per cent and by the end of July, the latest figures, the fall had not been made up. Unemployment had been increasing in Britain, though not so fast as in Germany or the United States. But it was still too fast for his taste. "What is refreshing and encouraging to me," Mr Healey

added, "are the physical signs that foreigners looking at our situation—goomes and the like of both white and brown skins—are very impressed by the evidence they see of the progress we are making with our problems." When he was asked about investment intentions, the Chancellor commented that he did not attach much importance to that, but the figures suggested a further increase next year over 1974. Labour's proposals for the regeneration of British industry were intended to achieve a much more effective selective improvement in investment "in the areas where it is most needed". For his part, Mr Heath seemed to be describing a

Continued on page 4, col 3



Mr Heath and Mr Wilson at their eve-of-poll press conferences in London yesterday.



Last-minute poll shows Labour's lead down slightly to 9 per cent

All the indications from the election survey for *The Times*, carried out by Opinion Research Centre, are that the Conservative election will be won by the Labour Party. The survey, based on recall interviews with 446 voters on Tuesday (a quarter of the original sample interviewed by RC over the weekend), finds a very slight reduction in the Labour lead—from 10 per cent to 9 per cent. If this position is maintained the voting today, it would give Mr Wilson a very substantial majority, certainly enough to give full authority to his Government in the difficult months ahead. Mr Heath's final hope may be that a sufficient number of voters will react against the prospect of a big Labour majority by switching their vote, to change this picture dramatically. This remains a possibility. Among the portion of the sample interviewed on Tuesday, there is clear evidence at the Liberal handwagon, which has obstinately refused to take off during the campaign, is moved into reverse. Analysis of the interviews shows a certain amount of inching around, but the net effect has been as follows: effectively no change in support for the Conservatives; a tiny movement in support of Labour; falling away in support for the Liberals. In February, when it seemed clear from the opinion polls at last weekend that the Conservatives would win, a considerable number of Liberals had switched their vote to

Labour, with the subsequent Labour result. The Conservative Party's best chance may be that something similar will happen again. But the most that can be said at this point (before ORC has completed its second reinterview with nearly half the original sample) is that those voters who are slipping away from the Liberals are largely moving towards the "undecided" and "would not vote" categories, and into the group who would not disclose their intentions. This movement could be a halfway-house between switching allegiance. But it could also be a sign that many voters are losing heart and opting out. After excluding the "undecided" and "would not vote" categories, the effect of the swing adjustment from the recall interviews is to lift support for the Conservatives by 2 per cent, Labour by 1 per cent, and to cut support for the Liberals by 3 per cent. The accompanying table gives a comparison of the position at the weekend and the position of the parties adjusted to take in the results of the reinterviews carried out on Tuesday. (All figures are given as percentages.)

The latest voting intention figures have been arrived at by using the following method. On Saturday and Sunday a nationwide quota sample of 1,627 voters was interviewed in 105 parliamentary constituencies, chosen to be representative of the country as a whole. On Tuesday, interviewers returned to 446 of the sample interviewed at the weekend to check for changes. A high success rate in contacting voters on this second visit was obtained—85 per cent. The voting intention results from the first survey were then adjusted to take in the changes found in the recall interviews. At the weekend, 9 per cent of the sample declared that they would not vote, were undecided or refused to disclose their voting intention. In 48 hours, the number of voters falling into the first two categories virtually doubled. Unless there is a substantial sampling or other form of error in the ORC figures, the chances of the Conservatives retaining office must be considered poor. ORC estimate that there is less than one chance in a hundred that a Labour lead of 9 per cent in a sample of this size does not reflect a real lead in the electorate as a whole. If the sample is reliable, the best Mr Heath could hope for would be another stalemate result. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of evidence that voters have become extremely volatile, and another unexpected and dramatic swing cannot be totally ruled out.

© Opinion Research Centre

VOTING INTENTION		
	Oct 5-6	Now
Lab	43	44
C	30	35
L	20	17
Others	7	3
Lab lead	10	9
Voting intention not given	9	12

Plan ready to freeze loaf prices and cash margins

Hugh Clayton. Plans to freeze shop prices of cash margins on bread are ready for implementation by the next government, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said yesterday. A draft order awaited the Secretary of State. The Government would not say how it differed from the consultative document sent to retailers last summer. But the two clauses are sure to have a retained. They were for a 15p for a large standard loaf, depending on area, and a freeze on cash margins on retail companies selling the maximum on a base. The department said consultative documents had been issued about a similar freeze on butter and cheese. Provisional retail maxima are 50p for English Cheddar and 40p for the pound of Irish butter. But again above the below those prices on a date would not be allowed exceed the prices they were rising them.

If Labour is returned it will issue consultative documents on tea and flour, thus covering all subsidised foods except milk, for which retail prices are already fixed. The trade is concerned at the choice of a March base date for bread and an August one for butter and cheese. Traders have also fought hard for an exemption from the freeze if the base date price is a special offer. On sugar, Tate & Lyle said yesterday that it saw no immediate prospect of raising its output to meet the customary autumn increase in demand. The company, which refines more than half the sugar sold in Britain, said that it was maintaining its rationing policy of the past eight months. That meant that the retail trade was receiving about three-quarters of its supply rate of November last year. But the Ministry of Agriculture said that national output of refined sugar last month was a tenth higher than in September last year. Consumption was rising steadily, with regular increases in autumn and winter.

Divisions among Provisional IRA over bombing campaign in England

From Robert Fisk, Belfast. Divisions have emerged within the Provisional IRA in both parts of Ireland over its bombing campaign in England. According to Provisional sources these have led to the arrest of about fifty members in Britain. The latest bombings in Guildford, in which five people died, were apparently organized and carried out by an IRA unit from London but had been sanctioned to advance by the Provisionals' army council in Ireland. So far, the Provisionals have scrupulously refused to claim responsibility for bombings in England, although information that became available yesterday suggests that the campaign was planned in the early days of the violence in Northern Ireland. As long ago as 1970, Provisional IRA units were set up in England possibly to undertake bombing attacks there. They were under strict instructions not to attend Republican ceremonies or social functions in Britain lest they should arouse the attention of the police.

The arguments go on within the IRA have nothing to do with any moral scruples about the innocent victims of bombings. Several leading Provisionals believe that the campaign in Britain is baying no worthwhile political effect—a demand from the population for Britain to wash her hands of Ireland has not materialized as the IRA expected—and argue that their members there are being imprisoned to no purpose. The opposite point of view is held by a majority on the ruling army council in Dublin, which believes that a continuation of sudden and sporadic attacks like those at Guildford would eventually achieve the desired effect. Mr Seamus Twomey, formerly the IRA's Chief of Staff and still an influential leader, takes the latter view and so does the present Provisional commander of the IRA's Belfast brigade, who holds a leading position on the council. Most of the bombings in Britain, according to reliable sources, have been the idea of

local units. Details of potential attacks have been forwarded to the IRA in Dublin only for approval. That was the case with the Guildford bombings. The murders at the public house, contrary to the suspicions of the British Army in Ulster, had no connexion with the trial at Wakefield of Judith Ward, a former member of the Women's Royal Army Corps. No leading Provisional is prepared to say why his organization does not admit responsibility for the various attacks in Britain, but republicans say privately that at least one incident, the bombing at the Tower of London in which a woman was killed, was not carried out by the Provisionals. Military intelligence in the North and people in close touch with the Provisionals agree that the IRA has been given active help by left-wing groups in London. In Northern Ireland yesterday about 1,200 people staged an anti-internment demonstration which closed most of the shops to the centre of Londonderry. Guildford warning, 2

Israeli troops evict Jews trying to settle on West Bank

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Oct 9. Israeli hardliners dramatized their position that no part of the historic Jewish homeland be returned to Jordan by infiltrating the West Bank in the small hours of this morning and squatting there. Most of the squatters were removed by this evening, but a spokesman for the Euzaim group, who organized the operation, said hundreds were still in the region, mainly in the Jericho area. There were also counter-demonstrations by Israel doves in Jerusalem and at the Latrun-Ramallah crossroads. One group which demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem raided the headquarters of the Euzaim block. They told police they had found 14 Czech rifles and two Kalashnikov sub-machine guns in the building. The security forces had received advance information about the squatters' plans and they had set up checkpoints last night on roads leading to the West Bank. A large number of Israelis carrying sleeping bags and canteens were reported to have been intercepted. One convoy of three buses and 10 private cars carrying some 750 people set out from Jerusalem in the direction of Jericho and was stopped at a checkpoint. About 150 people left the vehicles and went overland on foot reaching their destination at Maale Haamudim at about 6.30 am. Half an hour later their encampment was surrounded by soldiers. There were some scuffles during the morning but before noon the squatters were induced to board buses and return to Jerusalem. In the Nablus area, several busloads returned but small groups were reported to be roaming the area today. It was said that the infiltrators had failed to organize and by nightfall returned to Israel. In the Ramallah area, some 300 Israelis who were halted at a road block lay down on the highway as a form of passive resistance. Soldiers carried them to buses and they were removed. In the Knesset today Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, reaffirmed that his Government was ready to negotiate a territorial compromise with Jordan but was committed not to complete a deal involving a withdrawal without first going to the electorate. Mr Rabin was speaking in the House in reply to complaints by the Likud opposition that he had deviated and offered to yield territory for a non-belligerency pact. The Prime Minister, seemingly nervous, dealt briefly with the matter. He explained that in an American television interview he had said if there was a serious offer of non-belligerency for "something in the West Bank" he would give it sympathetic consideration. Mr Rabin accepted the Likud motion for a full dress debate on the subject and thus avoided a House test today. Photograph, page 7

President Sadat and Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, began talks here tonight in search of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. The discussion, at Mr Sadat's villa, began shortly after Dr Kissinger's arrival. Dr Kissinger was greeted at the airport by Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He told reporters: "I am starting this trip to Cairo to talk to my friends the President and the Foreign Minister about what the United States can do to contribute to progress towards peace in the Middle East." Observers here believe that the prime aim of Dr Kissinger's seventh Middle East tour, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Israel, Algeria and Morocco, is to give impetus to political efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. These efforts seem to have lost momentum since the troop disengagement agreements on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts were signed. The records were arranged by Dr Kissinger. President Sadat is expected to press for an early withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank of the Jordan.

Kissinger mission begins with Sadat talks

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Oct 9. President Sadat and Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, began talks here tonight in search of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. The discussion, at Mr Sadat's villa, began shortly after Dr Kissinger's arrival. Dr Kissinger was greeted at the airport by Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He told reporters: "I am starting this trip to Cairo to talk to my friends the President and the Foreign Minister about what the United States can do to contribute to progress towards peace in the Middle East." Observers here believe that the prime aim of Dr Kissinger's seventh Middle East tour, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Israel, Algeria and Morocco, is to give impetus to political efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. These efforts seem to have lost momentum since the troop disengagement agreements on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts were signed. The records were arranged by Dr Kissinger. President Sadat is expected to press for an early withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank of the Jordan.

Mr Ford is convinced inflation can be cut

From Fred Emery, Washington, Oct 9. President Ford today defended his new package of economic proposals, insisted the United States was not in a recession, and said he hoped for "some meaningful reduction in inflation" by early 1975. Despite his wife's illness with breast cancer, the President also said he had seen nothing to change his prediction that he would "probably" run for election in 1976. At a news conference in the White House rose garden, Mr Ford sought to minimize his proposed income tax increases, suggesting they were needed principally for budget balancing rather than deflation. He refused to speculate what further measures might be needed if his proposals failed to stem inflation. The President emphasized his exhortation to the American people and his belief that they would respond to his appeals for energy and food help tightening. Asked whether Dr Kissinger's effectiveness as Secretary of State had been affected by recent congressional criticism, Mr Ford delivered a powerful re-endorsement of confidence. Dr Kissinger's work for peace, he said, deserved whatever support he could give. Swift US action unlikely, page 8

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HOME NEWS

Two waves that hit Morning Cloud cost two lives, skipper says

Two waves that smashed into Mr Heath's yacht Morning Cloud cost two lives, it was stated at an inquest at Worthing, Sussex, yesterday.

Mr Donald Blewett, the skipper, described how the waves lifted the Morning Cloud up and sent her crashing down into the trough. On each occasion, a man was swept overboard, he said.

The inquest was into the deaths of Mr Heath's godson Christopher Chadd, aged 23, of Harrington Road, South Kensington, London, and Nigel Cumming, aged 43, of Turpin Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire. Verdicts of death by misadventure were recorded.

Mr Blewett said the first wave struck at about 11 pm on the night of September 1. He continued: "We were sailing quite normally and suddenly we were picked up by a very large wave, turned over on to our side and dropped down into the trough of the wave. The wave broke over the boat."

The yacht dropped violently "as if it had dropped through the air". There was a certain amount of structural damage, Mr Blewett said, and when the yacht righted there was a shout of "man overboard, all hands on deck."

When he got up on deck he saw that Gardner Sorum, a member of the crew, had gone over the stern and was being dragged along. It took five minutes to get him back on board. "I did a quick head count and found we were still on short. That was Nigel Cumming," he said.

Mr Cumming had been wearing a safety harness and they found a broken lifeline still attached to the rail. They turned round and searched for five or ten minutes but there was no sign of him.

Mr Blewett said he started the engine during the search, but after a few minutes it stopped and could not be restarted. He also tried to send out a radio call, but there was a malfunction in the transmitter.

He also took some flares from the locker. Two did not work and the third climbed to about 10ft and then, because of the high wind, dropped rapidly and disappeared into the sea. The weather was constantly worsening.

When they were satisfied that

Guildford traders get warning of more bombs

By A Staff Reporter

Guildford police issued a fresh bomb warning yesterday. They are searching for an unshaven man in a black coat seen in both the public houses, the Horse and Groom and the Seven Stars, shortly before the explosions last Saturday.

The police said three separate sources had told them that more bombs might be planted in Guildford soon. A circular was sent round the area warning staff at public houses, cinemas and supermarkets, especially those used by soldiers, to be extra vigilant, and telling them to dial 999 if they saw anything suspicious.

A general warning to be on the alert against further bomb outrages was issued by the police to all towns in Surrey, including Caterham, where troops are stationed.

Mr Christopher Rowe, Assistant Chief Constable of Surrey, said the man in black was 30 to 35 years old, 5ft 6in to 5ft 8in tall, of slim build with a thin face, and appearing to be in need of a shave. He had dark, straight hair.

He was wearing a three-quarter length black coat, possibly leather and belted, black trousers tight at the ankles, plain lace-up shoes, and perhaps wore spectacles.

Mr Rowe said: "Two or three people saw him on the night. We are trying to find out if anyone fitting this description stayed in a boarding house in the area."

The man was seen at 8.40 in the Seven Stars, only 20 minutes before the explosion at the Horse and Groom. Mr Rowe said the man was carrying a brown paper bag "as if it contained a box".

Witnesses have told the police that he was carrying a brown bag in addition to the paper bag while he was in the Seven Stars. He was seen in the Horse and Groom, where the



The bombed Horse and Groom public house in Guildford being demolished yesterday.

first bomb went off, with the holdall beside him.

Two girls who resemble the Photofit pictures, issued on Tuesday, were interviewed by bomb squad officers at Stoke Newington police station, London, yesterday but left after being eliminated.

Several Guildford landlords are showing nervousness at allowing many soldiers into

BBC election strike threat averted

A threat to disrupt outside broadcasts in BBC television's election coverage was lifted yesterday when members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs agreed to revised overtime payments for working through election night.

The dispute started when 500 cameramen, engineers and other BBC staff at Acton threatened not to operate some outside broadcasts unless they got a better overtime offer.

ITV settlement: Pay increases of 19 per cent have been agreed for 160 journalists employed by 14 regional independent television companies (our Labour sign writers). Agreement was reached after office branches of the National Union of Journalists voted to accept the companies' offer yesterday.

The increase, in line with those agreed for journalists of Independent Television News last week, will be backdated to July. The journalists have also been promised a review of individual salaries. A working party is to examine their pay structure, and salaries, in relation to other ITV employees.

Ford agreement: Talks on

Surgeon admits operation was in wrong spot

Miss Carys Margaret Bannister, a surgeon, being sued by a man who is now crippled for life, agreed at the High Court in Leeds yesterday that she made an incision in an exploratory spinal operation on a vertebra above where she intended.

Miss Bannister, now senior registrar at Leeds Infirmary neurosurgery department, said she did not think it crucial in the operation, to remove a vertebral plate, to be at the precise spot, or one vertebra above.

Miss Bannister and Leeds Area Health Authority (Teaching) are being sued for damages for alleged negligence by Mr Reginald Lockwood, aged 53, a former colliery overseer, who was said by Mr Clifford Lauriston QC, counsel to the paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Mr Lauriston said Mr Lockwood, of Sacknap Lane, Darton, near Barnsley, had been in this condition since the operation in October, 1967. He alleged that Miss Bannister performed the operation at the wrong site and that she had not had a myelogram (spinal test) done within a reasonable time before the operation.

Mr Lockwood went into the hospital for the operation after one myelogram had apparently shown a tumour. Miss Bannister said yesterday that no tumour was found.

She was asked by Mr Owen Stabile QC, her counsel, "Were you conscious of anything at all having gone wrong with this operation while you were operating?" She replied: "I was not aware of anything at all." The spinal cord looked absolutely normal.

She said she had no right to decide on a further myelogram and did not recall considering that one was needed.

The hearing continues today.

Boy 'slaughtered like chicken' in graveyard

A teenager alleged to have been a police informer was "slaughtered like a chicken" after being lured to a graveyard, Mr John Mathew, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

He was cross-examining Robert White, a painter and decorator, who is accused with another man, Christopher Whitaker, aged 16, in St Mary's Cemetery, Neasden, London, on January 25. Both have pleaded not guilty.

Stephen Dalton, aged 23, of Prayle Grove, Crickwood, Leamington, denied assisting in the murder of the other two, Mr White and Mr Quinn also deny having a shortened shotgun with intent to commit an indictable offence.

Mr White is alleged to have fired the first shot into Christopher Whitaker's head, and Mr Quinn the second. Mr White has alleged that Mr Quinn fired both shots.

Mr White told Mr Mathew yesterday that he did not know

myself out of trouble and make out it was not as bad as it was."

Mr Quinn, describing the shooting, said that Mr White told him he was going to fire the gun at Whitaker. "I thought he was going to fire over his head to frighten him," he said. "I did not think he was going to fire at him."

"Me and Bob (White) were walking side by side and he said 'Give me the shooter'. I passed it to him. He took it from me and aimed it from behind at Chris's head."

Mr Quinn had a gun on the night in question. He said Mr Quinn suddenly produced it, either from his sleeve or from under his coat, and fired at Whitaker.

Asked why he had not told the police the truth about what actually happened when his best friend came to be slaughtered like a chicken by Mr Quinn, Mr White replied: "The police were saying I had shot him and done him in the nut, and could prove it. I was trying to do the best to get

Rise in school-leaving age blamed for crime rate

Crime in West Yorkshire has risen by almost a quarter since January 1, and the police are laying much of the blame on the raising of the school-leaving age.

A police officer said: "Some juveniles seem to be bored by being kept at school and become involved in crime". If they were allowed to get jobs they would have more to interest them.

In Lancashire, more than half the burglaries detected this year up to the end of July involved juveniles. Mr Stanley Parr, the chief constable said in his report yesterday.

The proportion was about a tenth higher than five years ago, he added. "It leads to the inescapable conclusion that the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969, have failed to stem the rising tide of juvenile crime."

Mr Parr based his comments on the three months before police reorganization on April 1 and the four months that followed. In the original Lancashire police area, which was roughly halved by reorganization, 30,258 crimes were reported in the first quarter of this year, compared with 20,302 in the first quarter of 1973.

Crimes reported in the new area between April 1 and July 31 totalled 12,178 compared with 11,062 in the same period of last year.

Up to the end of March this year there were 9,418 burglaries compared with 6,301. Detection rate was 36 per cent compared with 35 per cent. From April 1 to July 31, 3,373 burglaries were reported, compared with 2,875. The detection rate fell from 51 per cent to 42 per cent.

Pill may cause congenital defects in the new-born

By Our Medical Correspondent

Yet another adverse effect of oral contraceptives has been identified in the United States. Doctors have found that the sex hormones in the contraceptive pill may on rare occasions be responsible for causing congenital defects in newborn babies.

Ever since the thalidomide disaster, most Western countries have maintained research programmes intended to detect any other connections between drugs taken in pregnancy and congenital defects.

Almost certainly thalidomide was unique in that a very high proportion of pregnant women who took it later gave birth to affected infants; unfortunately it is far less easy to identify a drug that has such an effect on only a small proportion of those who take it. For that reason, the usual approach has been to work backwards, taking a group of babies with similar birth abnormalities and then trying to find a common factor in the drugs their mothers took during pregnancy.

The New England Journal of Medicine reports today that the Birth Defects Institute, New York, studied 108 cases of babies born with absence of or serious deformities in arms or legs, deformities similar to but not identical with those caused by thalidomide. Every one of the children's mothers showed that six had become pregnant while taking the pill, and nine had been given sex hormones during early pregnancy.

In contrast, in a group of 108 mothers of the same age and background but with normal babies, only four had taken sex hormones. The chance that the difference is simply coincidence is less than one in 50. Furthermore, of the 15 affected babies born to the mothers who took sex hormones in pregnancy, no fewer than 12 were boys.

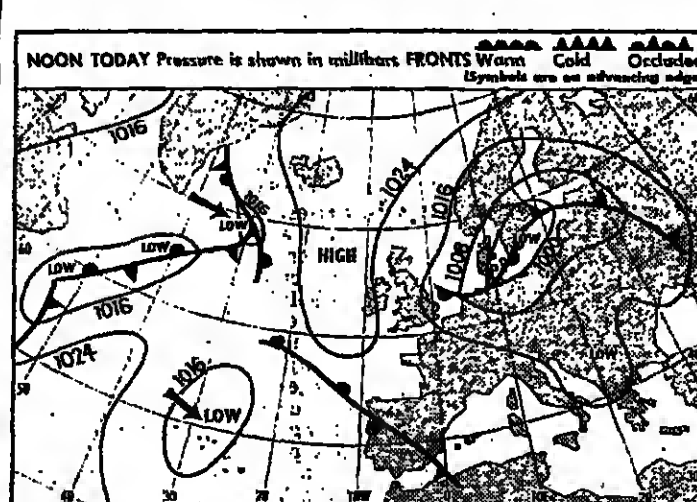
If sex hormones do increase the number of babies born with defects, the effect is small. In the past five years there have been nearly a million births in the area covered by the New York research programme. Of those million babies about 10,000 had malformations serious enough to warrant reporting, and of those 10,000 fewer than 200 had limb defects, only one in every 5,000 births. Ten years earlier the rate of limb defects was closer to one in every 7,000 births, so that there has been a slight increase during the period when oral contraceptives have steadily increased their popularity.

Bomb attack damages a store in Derry

A bomb badly damaged a supermarket in Strand Road, near the docks, in Londonderry yesterday afternoon, but the two men who planted the explosive gave a half-hour warning and the surrounding streets had been evacuated when the bomb went off.

Members of the part-time Ulster Defence Regiment, as well as RUC reservists, have been called out for polling day today. There is usually some violence in the province when elections go to the polls, although many voters, a proportionately larger number than in Britain, have already sent in postal votes, probably because of the fear of persecution or intimidation.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

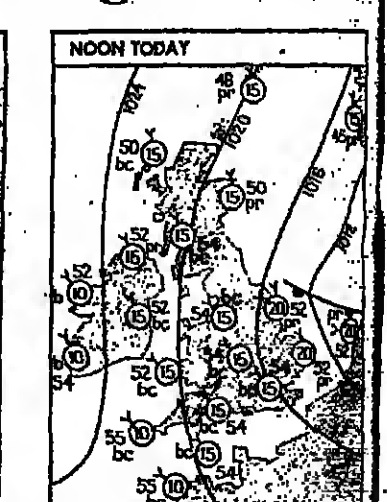
Sun rises: 7.15 am. Sun sets: 6.19 pm.

Moon rises: 12.36 am. Moon sets: 3.41 pm.

New moon: October 15.

Lighting up: 6.49 pm to 6.47 am.

High water: London Bridge, 8.38 am, 5.9m (19.3ft); 9.30 pm, 6.1m (20.1ft). Avonmouth, 2.5 am, 10.1m (33.0ft); 2.45 pm, 10.4m (34.0ft). Dover, 6.23 am, 5.5m (18.0ft); 7.34 pm, 5.6m (18.3ft). Hull, 12.24 am, 6.1m (19.9ft); 1.55 pm, 5.9m (19.5ft). Liverpool, 6.39 am, 7.0m (23.0ft); 7.12 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft).



Today

A N airstream will be maintained over the British Isles.

Forecasts for 5 am to midnight:

London, SE, NE, central S and N England, E Midlands: Showers, heavy at times; sunny intervals; wind N or moderate or fresh; max temp 12° or 13°C (54° to 55°F).

E Anglia, E England: Showers, heavy and possibly prolonged at times; bright intervals; wind N, moderate or fresh; max temp 12° or 13°C (54° to 55°F).

W Midlands, Channel Islands, SW England: Wind S, mist or fog patches early, then sunnier and scattered showers; wind N, moderate; max temp 12° to 13°C (54° to 55°F).

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 7 am to 7 pm, 14°C (57°F); min, 7 pm to 7 am, 9°C (48°F). Humidity, 7 pm, 73 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, nil. Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 5.0. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, 1.019 in. (44.5 mm). Sea level, 1,000 m (3,280 ft).



Will sex be out by 2000 A.D.?

Sex, alcohol and gambling may lose their appeal around the turn of the century—if self-stimulation of the brain's pleasure centres replaces these more traditional modes of human gratification.

This week New Scientist reports on the outcome of a recent study carried out by 50 experts into the future of psychology. Using the Delphi forecasting technique, which has proved extraordinarily effective in other fields, they predict an end to schools and examinations, the erasure of unpleasant memories, and the control of criminal tendencies.

Psychologists also see themselves playing a new role as an interface between the planners and the planned.

Also in this issue: Soviet change and the West... by Dr. Zhores Medvedev.

The tale of 3 factories—Volvo's approach to job satisfaction.

Drug trafficking run by mini Mafia, counsel says

From Our Correspondent Southampton

Drug trafficking at Southsea, Hampshire, where a dozen addicts have died from drug abuse in the past two years, was run by a "mini Mafia" as "evil and wicked as the real Mafia", Mr Ian Kennedy, for the prosecution, said at Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

Six men, including three alleged ringleaders of the gang, were accused of conspiring to use and threaten violence to persons supplying and using drugs or those who had information about the ringleaders and conspiring to procure, possess and supply controlled drugs.

Mr Kennedy, told the jury: "You will hear witnesses speak of the mini Mafia. That was a name the leaders of this conspiracy selected for themselves. Perhaps they did so to put a jinking gloss on it, but in one sense it was not a bad description. Compared with the Mafia, these people were very small, beer indeed, but as evil and wicked as the real Mafia."

He said Southsea had a high number of bed sitting rooms occupied by a "colony of habitual drug misusers. You

will hear one witness who knew of some dozen of his fellows who have died from overdoses in the past two years."

Counsel said the drugs ranging from heroin to amphetamines, were obtained by the conspiracy group in many ways: forging stolen prescription pads, breaking into chemists' shops and illicit dealings.

He continued: "The habitual drug users were very vulnerable to stress. Threats alone, like 'remember what happened to so and so', were sufficient."

Christopher Wallis, aged 23, of Bradford Road, Michael Hayer, aged 25, of Middle Street, both Southsea, and Clifford Cunningham, aged 23, of Ferndown, Dorset, are charged with conspiracy to supply drugs and conspiracy to use and threaten violence.

Michael David, aged 23, of Cumberland Street, Colin Weaver, aged 30, of Caswell Road, and Douglas Costello, aged 24, of Granada Road, all Southsea, are accused of conspiring to supply drugs. All pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

The trial continues today.

The Queen's visitors

More than 100,000 visitors explored the Queen's gardens and grounds at Sandringham during the summer season. The admission proceeds going to charities.

Hospital relief

A group of qualified nurses will be moved from hospital to hospital as an experiment because of staff shortages in the Enfield and Haringey health authority area, north London.

COUNTRY LIFE

Conservation Number

Can the Country House Survive?
Sir Michael Culme-Seymour assesses John Cornforth's report "Country Houses in Britain—Can They Survive?" and the exhibition "The Destruction of the Country House" at the V&A.

Europe's Last Big Cat
David Tomlinson considers the status and present-day distribution of the two species of lynx that survive in Europe.

York Town Scheme
John Cornforth examines the York Town Scheme, one of the many restoration schemes now operating in historic towns in England and financed by the Historic Buildings Council, local authorities and private owners.

Edwardian Terraces Brought to Life
Allen Paterson describes how the eighteenth-century gardens of Nuseham Park, Oxford, have been restored to much of their former splendour.

Community of Craftsmen
Edmund Lewis discusses the restoration and reproduction of historical keyboard instruments at Finchcocks, near Goudhurst, in Kent.

On sale now 30 pence

HOME NEWS

Russians may order American jet airliners powered by Rolls-Royce, Mr Benn says

From Pat Healy, Bristol
There is a serious possibility that the Russians will order United States jumbo jets powered by Rolls-Royce engines, Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, told Rolls-Royce workers in Bristol yesterday.

He said he had discussed the possibility with the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister in London and with other Soviet ministers. The future of the RB211-524 engine was much more hopeful than some commentators had suggested.

"There is the possibility that the Russians may wish to buy an American wide-bodied jet and the RB211-524 is the engine for that," he said. "The Russians are going to buy an American aircraft and there is a distinct possibility they will want it with a Rolls-Royce engine."

Prospects for the engine looked much healthier than they had been, he said, after he had gathered from reading those people who made a living out of criticizing Britain.

its high technology and Rolls-Royce, Mr Benn said. The RB211-524 was the main workhorse engine of the big jets from now to the end of the century. Its applications included the jumbo jets, which would be one of the workhorse transport aircraft also until the end of the century.

Mr Benn said afterwards that the Russians had put out tenders for wide-bodied jets. They had four choices: the European Airbus, the Boeing 747, the Lockheed TriStar and the Douglas DC10. He felt that the Russians would not like to buy American engines as well as American aircraft and they had a high regard for Rolls-Royce engines.

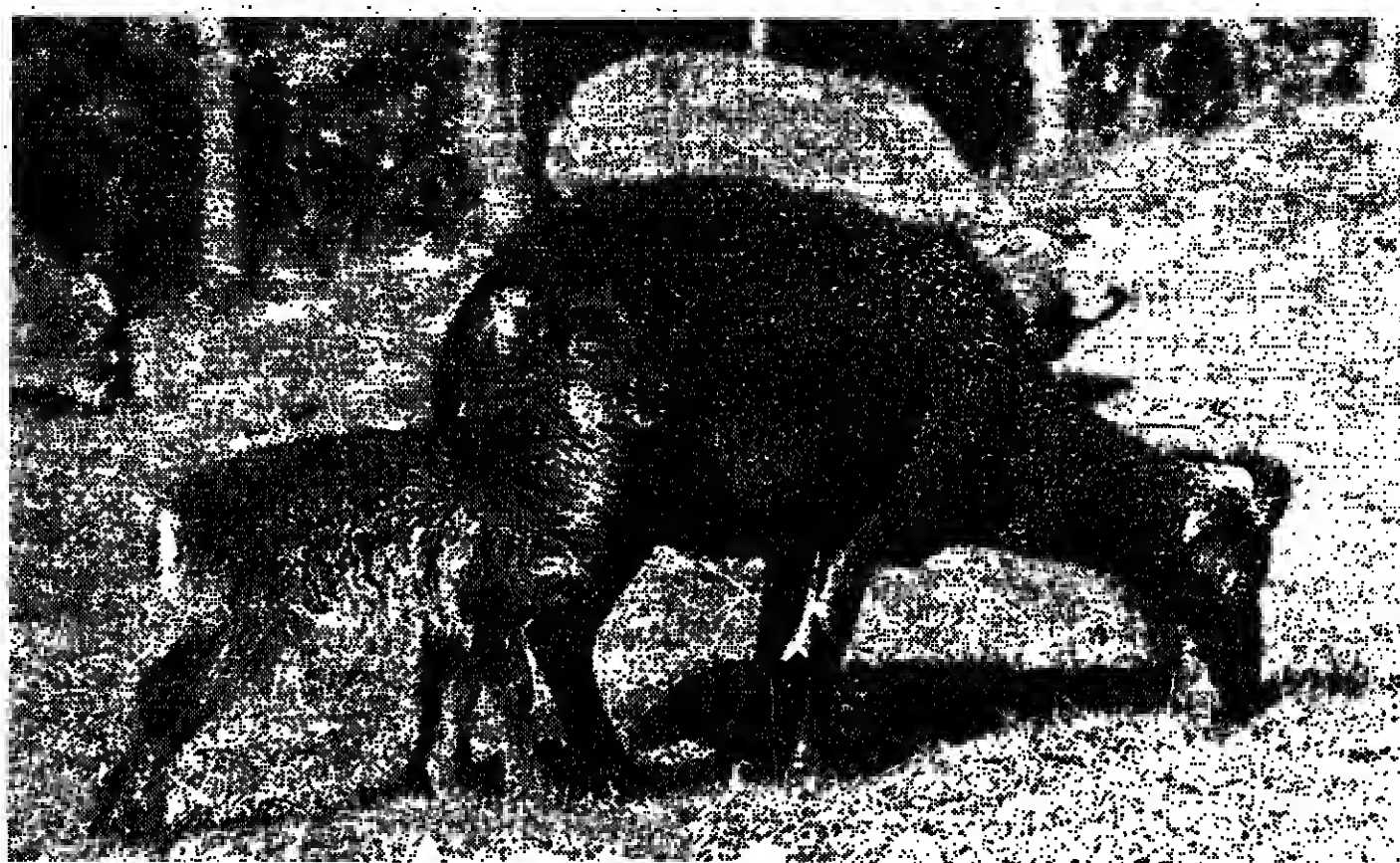
If they bought either the Lockheed or the Boeing they would have Rolls-Royce engines and that would be a great boost for Britain. The Russians would not like to buy any orders would be fitted into their five-year plans. The next one, he

thought, would begin at the end of this year.

Our Air Correspondent writes: The Soviet aviation authorities have been considering the purchase of wide-body airliners from the United States for many months. They appear to be most enthusiastic over the Boeing 747, but are also interested in the Lockheed TriStar, which is powered by British Rolls-Royce RB211 engines.

A TriStar from the now defunct Court Line was demonstrated to the Soviet authorities earlier this year in Moscow.

If Russia bought jumbo jets, they could be fitted with the RB211 engine under a proposal being worked on by both Rolls and Boeing. British government backing for such a project depends on airline orders in addition to one from British Airways, which has already said that it wants the 18 jumbos it is to buy to be powered by British rather than American engines.



Prehistoric sheep: The eight-day-old Soay lamb seen above is among the latest arrivals at the Butser Ancient Farm Project at Petersfield, Hampshire. It is the first autumn lamb in the history of the flock.

Its birth this year may well be attributed to better conditions in southern England than in its native habitat on the St Kilda islands off north-west Scotland. The breed has survived there for two millennia, the only change being the normal population fluctuations allied to food supply and the occasional fisherman seeking fresh meat.

"We are fortunate that they have survived, since they are the 'prehistoric sheep' that figured in the pastoral economy of Iron Age Britain", Mr Peter J. Reynolds, director of the Butser Project says. "Analysis of sheep bones from many excavations confirms that the skeleton of the present Soay sheep is the same as those recovered."

Whether the sheep were kept for meat or wool production is debatable. The animal is quite small and would not provide much meat, but the wool is soft and much sought after today for making into garments. In north-west Scotland

there are traditional patterns for sweaters using the two basic natural colours of oatmeal and dark brown.

At the ancient farm research is going on into the significance of the Soay sheep within the economy of a small working farmstead. The areas of study involve careful domestication since as a breed they are now wild, concentration of head on acre, and wool and meat production. Progress reports on the Butser project appear from time to time exclusively in The Times.

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Expert says trawler was probably damaged

From Our Correspondent, Hull
The Hull trawler Gaul, 1,106 tons, might have survived her loss of stability, course direction and the 45ft waves to which she foundered had she not suffered structural damage, Department of Trade marine surveyor, said yesterday. He was speaking at the inquiry into the loss of the vessel.

The Gaul and her crew of 6 disappeared in a gale off the Humber in February. Mr Michael Scott, of Woodland Drive, Anlaby, Hull, the surveyor, said that in his opinion there would have to be water in the factory space at the moment the Gaul lost stability and started to heel when she was on the crest of a wave and at the same time as another wave swept up the stern ramp and flooded the trawl deck with two-and-a-half feet of water.

The trawler would be submerged by the seas she experienced, he said. With water in the factory space she would have been less likely to come up and shed the deck water before another wave went over her. "She must have been involuntarily altering the intended course," Mr Scott said. "The crew would be attempting to correct the course, assuming that they could keep their feet in those conditions. But if the vessel had remained intact I consider that she could possibly have survived. She may have suffered severe structural damage. Water in the factory space could not of itself cause the loss of the Gaul."

Survey finds foreign cars more reliable

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent
Owners of cars less than two years old have only one chance in three of getting through the year without serious trouble, according to a reliability survey published today by Which? the consumer magazine. For a car three or four years old, the chances are down to one in six.

The survey, based on experiences of nearly 25,000 Which? subscribers with their cars during 1973, finds that four-fifths had a car that let them down on a journey or developed serious faults or spent time in the road for repair apart from routine servicing.

Foreign cars tend to be more reliable than British but often cost more to service and repair. The survey comments: "Quite a lot of makes have significantly good reliability and, sadly, nearly all of them are foreign. But it would be a grave mistake to suppose that all foreign brands are reliable."

Only a few makes combined good reliability with low repair costs. Volkswagen had a good record over all years and Renault for cars up to three years old. The Japanese Datsun and Toyota did well, although the samples were small and only of fairly new cars.

Other foreign cars with reliability better than average were Audi, BMW, Citroën, Opel, Peugeot, Saab and Volvo, and nearly all of them are small cars.

But all except Opel, Saab and Honda were expensive to service and repair.

Apart from the small Rolls-Royce sample, and Rover, which is rated "average", none of the British makes stood out as particularly reliable. Which? says that Austin-Morris, Ford and Hillman owners can get some consolation from the fact that their servicing and repair costs were generally no worse than average and sometimes better.

Of other British makes, Jaguar, MG, Triumph and Vauxhall were found to be both reliable and expensive to service and repair. The small sample of Reliant and Lotus cars was "very unreliable" with "very high" repair costs.

British Leyland, which makes Jaguar, Rover, Triumph, MG and Austin-Morris cars, said it did

not wish to argue with the Which? findings, but questioned the selectivity of the survey. Fewer than half of those invited to take part had done so, and satisfied customers were usually less vocal than those with complaints.

Such surveys also tended to favour imported makes because car buyers were generally more critical of the domestic product. British Leyland cars sold abroad often enjoyed a high reputation for quality and reliability in foreign countries.

But Leyland, like all manufacturers, was very concerned to improve matters, and that concern was reflected in the creation of a new post of director of product quality. Reliability should also be helped by the new Austin-Morris policy of concentrating on quality rather than competing in volume with the big European manufacturers.

On the criticism of Jaguar, Leyland said there had been difficulties with the 2.8 litre models but modifications had been made to put that right. High servicing and repair costs were to be expected with an expensive, complicated car.

British motor industry sources pointed out that all manufacturers had suffered from the disruptions of the three-day week and among component suppliers, and that was bound to affect quality.

Seat belt death: A simple movement forward while wearing a seat belt was enough to cause fatal injuries to a woman passenger aged 82, it was stated at an inquest at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. She was a passenger in a car which was in a collision at Hanslope, on the M1, on Friday.

Dr Robert Sladden, a pathologist, said that Mrs Louise Ann Eyles, of Kendall Road, Beckenham, Kent, died as a result of internal haemorrhage caused by a ruptured heart muscle. The sternum was fractured.

He told Mr Edward Ray, the North Buckinghamshire coroner, no one could say what would have happened if she had not been wearing a seat belt.

Mr Walter Eyles said his mother had a heart condition.

The inquest was adjourned.

Motoring, page 29

Mr Alan Gillillao, a consultant naval architect, told the jury, sitting for the twelfth day, that the Gaul might have lifted structural damage, visible at wheelhouse level, to other stern fishing trawlers in the same area suffered damage from waves at bridge level.

Mr Gillillao said the Gaul did not necessarily sink for an exceptional or negligent reason. His view she sank as a result of a sequence of events. The likely contributory factors were water on the trawl deck, loss of stability on a wave crest, and broaching. He thought the amount of water in the factory space had been over-emphasized but did not exclude it as a factor contributing to the ship's loss.

The inquiry continues today.

Explosion plot charge
John Sylvester McCluskey, aged 30, of Fulham Road, London, is to appear at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, Middlesex, today charged with conspiring with others to cause explosions. He faces seven charges concerning incendiary devices.

Man starts sentence
Anthony Collingbourne, aged 40, maker of indecent films, of Vicarage Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, who failed to surrender to bail during a trial at St Albans earlier this year, was taken to Wandsworth Prison yesterday to start his five-year sentence.

Scientist outlines plan to make natural gas from coal with nuclear reactor

Pearce Wright, Science Correspondent
A process to manufacture synthetic natural gas, to replace supplies as North Sea land-based deposits are depleted in a few years, was described at a meeting in London yesterday of the International Committee for Coal Research. The method uses it from a nuclear reactor in gasification. Results from first experiments on which general plans have been based were given by Professor Peter Peters, Director, Steinbeckerbauverein, of West Germany, outlining programmes for development of coal.

He said the manufacture of natural gas from hard coal had been on heat from high temperature nuclear reactors had been tested successfully in the laboratory. Larger demonstration equipment was being built by the end of this decade, prototype plant with a 750,000 watt process heat reactor to be ordered.

The main present use for coal was the production of gas, Professor Peters said. Therefore the improvement of conventional plant and the development of a novel coking process had research priority. Risk on an experimental unit, pre-carbon processes, promising improvements by using time taken to prepare fuel blast furnaces and by substantially reducing waste of energy and material.

The technique, a continuous process to make the coke, had reached the stage of a large scale trial with a daily output of 300 tons.

An important British development, the construction of fluidized bed plant for a small power station, was described by Dr J. Gibson, director, Coal Research Establishment, National Coal Board.

Coal with a high sulphur content could be used for the method of burning because of the improvement in the quality of the flue gases which escaped to the atmosphere. Fluidized combustion under pressure was the most attractive way of burning coal cleanly and economically and taking advantage of the efficiency of new techniques for generating electricity.

Low-grade fuels, including materials other than coal, could be burnt successfully in fluidized units. Furnaces could range from small devices for industry to large ones for power stations.

Fluidized bed development has become attractive in the United States. Reflecting the new drive in America to obtain energy self-sufficiency, Mr W. McCurdy, Office of Coal Research, gave figures of a programme to revive the use of coal that dwarfed the combined efforts of all the other countries attending the meeting.

He said coal consumption by the electric utilities last year in the United States was 348 million tons. Growth rate for the first half of 1974 was 7 per cent. Critical power shortages might appear in coming years as residential and commercial energy users were forced from oil and gas to electricity. Lead time for new nuclear plants was 10 years or more.

That situation had created wide interest for fluidized bed combustion and a 30 megawatt unit was being installed at an operating power plant. A pressurized system of about the same capacity was to be built soon and plans for a 200 megawatt demonstration plant were being completed.

Oxfordshire tests: The National Coal Board is about to start test drilling in the Oxfordshire coalfield to decide once and for all whether the vast reserve is worth working (our Oxford correspondent writes).

The field stretches across north Oxfordshire, from Banbury and Bicester through Sleaford Aston and Chipping Norton to Witney, and is believed to contain 10,000 million tonnes of low-grade power-station coal, a far bigger reserve than the Selby field in Yorkshire, which is at an advanced stage of exploration.

The coal board said that because of the oil crisis it had to start a crash programme of exploration across the country to establish the reserves it has.

Heart screening urged for every child before leaving school

From Our Correspondent, Harrogate
Every child should be screened for possible heart disease before leaving school, Dr R. W. D. Turner, Reader in Medicine at Edinburgh University, told the conference of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene in Harrogate yesterday.

He said the screening should include blood tests and blood pressures to be followed up by

checks every five years. Such a system would give doctors the chance to discuss matters with the individual and give him warnings against such things as smoking, obesity and diets, thus preventing a vast amount of heart disease.

Dr Turner said that even early preventive medicine could be carried out at the nursery stage by discouraging mothers from feeding babies on cow's milk, which had a

higher salt content than their own, or from giving them sugar at weaning. Both, he said, played a part in the coronary story.

Little was being done about the increasing rate of heart disease, Dr Turner said. When symptoms first appeared, the underlying disease was usually far advanced, making secondary prevention second best. Only primary prevention could be effective, and that might

involve screening all apparently healthy people, which would be as wise as making regular visits to the dentist.

In a sedentary society, where most men's exercise consists of walking to the car, lack of exercise should be discouraged. While he welcomed extensive sports complexes, he objected to the closing of park gates at 6 pm, when floodlights should be turned on.

Addressing the conference on community services for the alcoholic, Dr Morton Reynolds, area medical officer for Dudley, said: "Drinking is a custom which is not only socially acceptable but actively encouraged. It is the abstainer who is the odd man out."

He called for a restriction on alcohol advertising, particularly on television, and for further training for people who deal with alcoholics.

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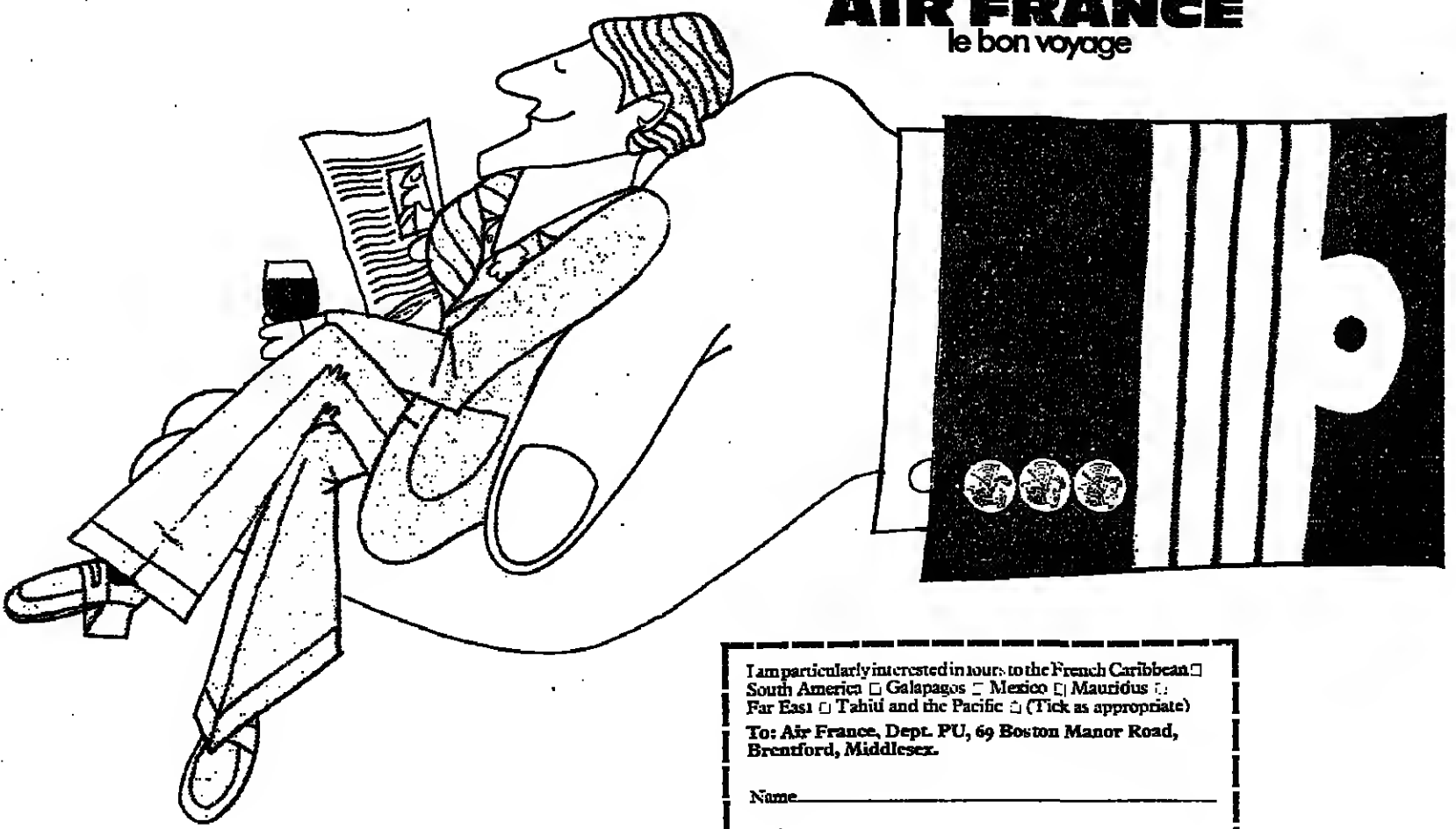
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GENERAL ELECTION

The moment of truth has arrived, Mr Heath asserts

By John Winder

Mr Heath made a final appeal yesterday to the "do-it-knows". He presented a choice between a "dull, bleak, flat and soulless society" and a means to survive and eventually to prosper by backing the Conservatives.

The moment of truth, he told a packed hall at Gravesend, Kent, had come for politicians and voters alike.

There were two Labour parties, he said. One would be more than likely prepared to join hands with political opponents in the national interest if they were free to do so. However, they dare not do it because it would split the Labour Party wide open between the Social Democrats and the dominant left wing.

Without mentioning Neville Chamberlain by name Mr Heath compared the words of Mr Wilson that the British people wanted "a little peace, and quiet" with the phrase of 1938, offering "peace in our time".

The latter, he said, had been followed within 12 months by the terrible reckoning. Our Political Correspondent writes: Mr Heath and Mr Wilson agreed yesterday that the question of extending or reducing the period of election campaigns should be referred to a Speaker's Conference.

He did not believe that the British people would tomorrow run away from reality again if they knew that the nation was once more ready to come together to face immense dangers. However, he turned to the possibility of an appalling mischance, such as people wasting their votes by voting Liberal and thus returning a Labour government. What would that mean for the future? It would mean a Britain poor, socialist, and alone.

Speaking later in his constituency at Bexley, Sidcup, Mr Heath said that now was the time when voters should put country before party. The only way to do that was to vote Conservative.

Answering a question on how many of the main aims of the

Liberal Party he could accept, Mr Heath said Mr Thorpe had said that none of the aims would be made conditions of working with another party after the election. Mr Thorpe was right. The Conservatives had laid down no conditions and it was not for other leaders to do so.

At the end of the meeting the audience sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

This is the customary method of dealing with changes in the electoral law, and any change in the Representation of the People Act which the conference might recommend would come before the Commons for endorsement, on a free vote.

Unlike Mr Wilson, who thought it might be a good idea to reduce the election period to two weeks, Mr Heath, speaking at his last election press conference in London, said there might be a good case for extending it to five or six weeks.

If it were a longer period, said Mr Heath, it was argued that there would be more balance in the reporting and discussion of the issues.

Mr Wilson and Mr Heath were in agreement on one point: to a severe election campaign had been going on for seven months since the inconclusive result of the last election.

But Mr Wilson thought there might be a case for still further shortening the election period.

"In this election I think most people have made up their minds quite early," he said. "There are problems about it, in that Mr Heath himself in February—and I had criticised him for it—departed from my previous practice of giving 31 days' notice of the election. I more or less followed his February precedent by having 22 days; he had 21 days."

At Aylesbury, one of the leading organizers in the Liberal Party, thought three weeks was about right.

FINAL FORECASTS OF THE POLLS

Poll	Oct 10		Feb 28		C lead over-estimated by
	C	Lab	L	Fieldwork Sample error	
Gallup	36.0	41.5	19.0	7.9 0.6	1.2
Marplan	33.3	43.0	19.5	1.024 3.7	1.2
Louis Harris	33.5	43.5	20.5	2.023 2.1	4.2

'No matter which party or parties form the government after today's voting, a corporatist system will be introduced in Britain by 1980. This will complete a new structure which both Labour and Tory governments have been building pragmatically'

R. E. Pahl and J. T. Winkler on the coming corporatism

'There are groups who embrace "evil," whose centre point is Satan laced with sex; and there are groups who regard themselves as inheritors of an innocuous, pre-Christian fertility religion'

Christina Lerner on contemporary witchcraft

'Suburban intellectuals, whose only claim to violence rests on a somewhat vigorous spraying of summer greenfly, earnestly assure themselves that there is no love without hate'

Anthony Clare on Fromm and destructiveness

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How the nation voted in February

M.P. No. of Candidates in Constituency	Electorate	Total votes & turnout	Party Votes, Percentages, Members and Candidates						Others
			Con	Lab	Lib	Comm	Plaid Cymru	Scott N	
ENGLAND	516 (1,674)	33,063,889	26,135,154 79.0%	10,505,470 40.2%	9,835,537 37.8%	5,578,948 21.3%	13,379	—	201,820 0.8%
			268* (516)	237 (516)	9 (516)	— (23)	—	—	2 (167 incl 54 Nat Front)
SCOTLAND	71 (265)	3,653,990	2,886,653 78.0%	950,901 32.9%	1,058,159 36.6%	229,099 7.9%	15,069 0.5%	632,032 21.9%	1,393
			21 (71)	40 (71)	3 (71)	— (15)	— (7)	— (70)	— (4)
WALES	36 (148)	1,992,742	1,593,893 80.0%	412,535 25.9%	745,547 46.8%	255,423 16.0%	4,293 0.3%	171,364 10.7%	4,871 0.3%
			8 (36)	24 (36)	2 (36)	— (31)	— (6)	— (36)	— (3)
N IRELAND	12 (48)	1,041,886	717,586 68.9%	94,301 13.1%	15,483 2.1%	—	—	—	607,802 58.7%
			— (7)	— (4)	— (4)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (37)
U KINGDOM	635 (2,135)	39,762,317	31,339,226 78.9%	11,963,207 38.2%	11,654,726 37.2%	6,063,470 19.3%	32,741 0.1%	803,396 2.8%	815,668 2.8%
			29 (635)	301 (635)	10 (635)	— (517)	— (44)	— (106)	— (211)

*Including The Speaker. Votes shown as Conservative in Northern Ireland relate to Unionist candidates who supported the Sunningdale Agreement.

Council role for Liverpool MPs

From John Charters

Liverpool
"You won't find anyone in this yard opposed to nationalisation," the shop steward said at Cammell Laird's. "The Government owns half of it anyway and we would all have been out of jobs if they hadn't bailed us out years ago."

"Don't you think your party's too soft with the workers? You let them get away with murder," a housewife, aged 60, living in the shadow of Everton football ground challenged Mr Eric Heffer, Labour candidate for the Walton division, and Minister of State for Industry.

"Can you get something done about our rally reception?" another woman in the same street asked. "That new stand on the football ground just blocks us all out and all we get is coloured snowstorms."

"Do you think you should hang the IRA bombers?" asked the anxious father of a 20-year-old who has just left his council home to enlist in the Guards.

Of such is the stuff of Liverpool politics. Mr Heffer, the best-known national figure among the city's eight former MPs (seven of them Labour) is finding that 90 per cent of the questions he is asked are on such subjects as leaking roofs, rents, and housing allocations, and are really more relevant to city councillors.

Most other candidates find the same trend although the first three questions at a forum organized in the marginal

Garston constituency by Radio Merseyside were on the economic state of the nation, nationalisation, and the disillusionment and boredom of the electorate.

However low-key the election may appear, the 400,000 voters of Liverpool have made and broken many a government. It was recognition of the understandable preoccupation with a multitude of local and personal problems which probably launched the Liberal Party into prominence and power on the city council last year.

Brimful of confidence and describing the city as the bright jewel in the crown of the Liberal successes of 1972 and 1973, the party's performance was disappointing in February with one candidate

losing his seat and Mr Cyril Carr, a former chairman of the party, and Mr Trevor Jones, a former president, taking third place in their constituencies.

A senior and cynical member of the city's press club said that the main political interest in Liverpool in February was how well the Liberals would do; this time it was how badly they would do.

That is a little unkind. The Liberal organization has done much heart-searching, including an open controversy between Mr Jones and Mr Carr. In the best Merseyside political traditions that was quickly healed and was regarded as a healthy piece of democracy.

February was the first time the Liberals had fought all the Liverpool seats for 50 years and the former being under medical orders to rest and the latter fighting Gillingham in Kent.

The Liberals' performances will be critical in at least two seats: Liverpool, Garston, which fell from a safe Conservative majority of 7,000 in 1970 to a left-wing coalition with a 681 to 500 vote in February; and Liverpool, Edge Hill, where Mr David Alton, aged 24, came as near as it would be possible to perturbing that elder statesman, Sir Arthur Iremonger, by taking second place for the Liberals with nearly 27 per cent of the vote.

The predominantly middle-class Wavertree division, the only one remaining in Conservative hands in February, has the wardward too, with Mr Tony Limon, aged 32, a barrister and active member of both the city and county councils, having taken on the Liberal mantle from Mr Carr. Mr Carr, in spite of coming third, polled nearly 26 per cent of the vote.

Unless the Liberals' high degree of confidence is justified, the city seems likely to follow trends in other industrial

Labour goes to 4-1 on as bets rise to £1.5m

General election betting is likely to top the £1.5m mark, if the expected last minute rush of cash materialises today.

The big three bookmakers cut Labour's odds on victory last night to 4-1 on or 7-2 on.

Ladbrokes, who took £140,000 yesterday, are already topping £500,000. Bets have come in from 14 countries, including one from Australia of £10,000 to win and £8,000 on no overall majority.

Joe Coral report takings of £300,000, and they expect to close their book with a total of about £500,000.

But a disappointed William Hill, who have taken about £300,000 so far, said: "At this stage in February it was more like £700,000. Put it down to general belt-tightening."

Bets last night—Tories: 3-1 or 11-4; Liberals: 50-1 or 60-1; no overall majority: 5-4.

Holidaymakers' 'vote'

Some 850 holidaymakers unable to vote in the election have taken part in an opinion poll conducted by Thomson Holidays at 20 of their hotels in Benidorm, Spain: 41.36 opted for the Conservatives, 39.50 for Labour and 19.04 for the Liberals.

Prime Minister scoffs at health rumours

At his London press conference yesterday Mr Wilson dismissed rumours about his health.

"According to rumours, I have had three strokes, two heart attacks, and I am suffering from leukaemia and I am going blind," he said. "I don't know who puts these silly stories out. I did strain my knee last November and I thought I was suffering from housemaid's knee. My knee is now better."

Early voting: Mr Wilson and Mr Heath will vote in the same Westminster constituency today but at different polling stations. Later they will leave for their constituencies.

Tories support curbs on use of oil

By Our Political Staff

Economies in oil consumption were presented as imperative by Mr Heath when he closed his campaign at the Conservative Central Office yesterday.

After saying that we must consume less and import less, he added that there must be economies in oil consumption if people today were not to go down in history as the generation who allowed their children with the burden.

The choice for the people was between unfair and involuntary sacrifices and fair sacrifices accepted in advance and shared by a united people, led by a government of national unity that Conservatives wished to form.

Mr Heath said he was not talking about rationing. It was

possible for industry in particular to bring about considerable savings of oil and fuel.

Asked whether any government would be led to renege, Mr Heath replied that first they would need to see the facts and figures—the Budget forecast for the year. If the Budget deficit was going to be much greater than Mr Healey said on Budget day, one had to approach reflection with the greatest caution.

But cash had to be got back into industry and into agriculture if there were not to be heavier unemployment and more bankruptcies. To assume unemployment would lead to even more cuts in industry and agriculture.

At the Labour campaign conference, Mr Healey said that whatever government emerged this week would have to unite

the British people in a collective effort to overcome problems, that were shaking the world. Britain could have a major influence on the attitude of other countries. "There is no place for panic or despair. Those who seek to engender such unreasoning response to the challenge are doing the British people a disservice."

For two years at least the dangers would remain formidable, but he believed the modest progress the British people and Government had achieved together over the past seven months gave grounds for sober confidence.

Mr Wilson commented that "we have a couple of years of pretty grim uphill work ahead of us," but that was not the same as talking about catastrophe.

Campaign produced few surprises

Continued from page 1

different country. On Wednesday, he said, there was proof that living standards were falling fast, that investment in future jobs was falling, and that bankruptcies were at a record. Now there was proof that even the most efficient firms like the Spence had been driven to cut back investment and to look to the future with despondency "as a direct result of Labour's mismanagement and interference".

The retail trade said that prices were rising at around 20 per cent a year or more.

"Britain", declared Mr Heath, "faces a difficult and dangerous war against inflation and unemployment, with no certainty of winning unless we take the right decisions in time". If Britain got a Labour Government for five years "we will not see a Britain united in deal with this situation", there would be extreme left measures "which we have forced them to keep under wraps while they were a minority Government".

Mr Heath mentioned nationalization of great firms with household names; concessions on picketing "which will undermine the law and the police"; "which we have forced them to keep under wraps while they were a minority Government".

Throughout the campaign, Mr Wilson retorted in his last words flung across Smith Square towards Conservative Central Office, the Conservatives "have not put forward a single constructive proposal to deal with a crisis which was apparent to all last year well before the increase in oil prices worsened it"—except to televise NEDC (National Economic Development Council) and to hold talks about talks about talks about a coalition.

The British people would not be panicked, he said, by the Conservatives. The Labour Government had the man and the measures to get Britain out of the crisis, and their message to the people was: "Don't let them talk you out of it."

The tactics at Labour and

Conservative headquarters were fairly obvious. Mr Heath was taking a last chance to hammer home that the gathering crisis is of a magnitude that only a government of national unity, or coalition government, could be trusted to handle. Mr Wilson and Mr Healey had, so far as they felt able, to diminish the scale of the crisis or otherwise expose themselves to questions about their stewardship in the past seven months.

And Mr Thorpe made his predictable contribution to the evaporation argument: he called again for the break-up of the two-party system and the politics of division. "The electorate", he said, "no longer takes it for granted that the two-party system will last for ever. There is no God-given right for the Conservative and Labour parties to rule this country to perpetuity." Six million made that assertion in February; today, at the polls, millions more stood on the brink of joining them.

So ends the campaign, much where it began. All the main party leaders agree that it has been a quiet, thoughtful, and serious campaign; and they may be right, although they have said that in the past they have meant that the electors are apathetic.

It has been a campaign that failed to produce any surprises, dramas, or even the dirty tricks that Mr Wilson once feared. Unlike all recent elections, it failed to dominate the headlines and create excitement.

Even such unconvincing events as Mrs Williams's threat to leave active politics if the EEC ballot goes against her judgment. Lord Chalfont's resignation from the Labour Party, and the synchronization of the campaign of the Ford strike made no lasting impact on the argument.

As Mr Wilson remarked yesterday, in a real sense the election campaign ran for seven months. After February's effectual tie, there had to be a replay, and electoral interest could not for so long a period be sustained at a high pitch. Mr Heath even suggested yesterday

that some of the electorate resent the interference of politics with their favourite television programmes. (By contrast, Mr Wilson thought television politics a branch of light entertainment, unless serious interviewers were involved.)

After seven months of campaigning, there is a paradox. All the portents of the polls suggest that Labour must win comfortably, but Labour's party managers do not brim with overwhelming confidence. They are uncertain, as their again for the break-up of the two-party system and the politics of division.

The election will almost certainly prove decisive for the future of Mr Wilson and Mr Heath as leaders of their parties. Should Mr Heath win, if only by a margin sufficient to enable him to form a coalition government on a five-year lease, Mr Wilson could scarcely expect to be wearing the mantle of leadership still in his mid-60s, even though Labour leaders are hard to unseat.

On the Conservative side there is already some muted discussion about who might succeed Mr Heath in the aftermath of a defeat, cannot be said that, after decades, resignations, and the wear and tear of office, the Conservative frontbench is rich in crown prizes.

But Mr William Whitelaw, who now as party chairman extends his influence beyond Westminster to the Conservative rank-and-file, has been harassed more than once during the campaign by questions whether he could be drafted.

Liberals are ready to rule, Mr Thorpe says

From Christopher Walker

Barnstaple
To the disappointment of some senior Liberal Party tacticians, Mr Thorpe yesterday reverted to his role as a dedicated constituency politician for the closing stages of his campaign, rejecting the possibility of a televised eye-of-poll speech in favour of a handful of rallies in scattered parts of Devon.

During his final address, Mr Thorpe maintained firmly that the Liberal Party had earned its chance to govern. "Our years of constructive opposition have prepared us for office," he said.

"While other parties have concentrated on the politics of confrontation, each seeking to undermine the credibility of the other, only the Liberal Party has taken a step back from the daily slanging match to take a long, hard look at the state of the nation."

Looking fit and buoyant in spite of the rigours of his helicopter tours, Mr Thorpe argued that Liberal policies had been developed over a period of time, not hastily produced overnight as a result of market research, or concocted from the propaganda of dogmatic socialism.

"It is now time to give these policies a chance," he said at a rally of the faithful at the village of South Molton. "There is nothing to be gained by a return to the much tried and failed policies of Conservatives—with a human face or

otherwise. There is everything to lose by staking our future on a programme of mass nationalization.

Maintaining his campaign dictum of attacking both major parties, Mr Thorpe said: "We cannot afford the expense of Mr Benn; we will not suffer the obnoxiousness of Mr Heath and we will no longer be bemused into indecision by the contortions of Mr Wilson."

Earlier, during a day which included such traditional pre-election pursuits as hugging babies and even imitating chickens, Mr Thorpe refused to be the last to admit publicly whether he would be prepared to join a government headed by Mr Heath.

The nearest he came to saying no was when asked whether he thought Mr Heath capable of heading such a government. "I must confess that I would have thought it unlikely to be acceptable to the Labour Party," he replied. "And while I do not wish to indulge in personalities, I would have thought that the architect of confrontation in February is not exactly the apostle of unity to hold together all political parties in a government of national unity."

With a majority of over 11,000, Mr Thorpe should have no difficulties today in holding the seat he first won from the Tories in 1958. It is the reason some Liberal organizers have criticized his decision to remain put here during the final crucial 48 hours before polling.

Scottish polls vary, but SNP counts its gains

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

As the campaigning ends and the voting begins, the most compelling question of the general election in Scotland remains how strongly the Scottish National Party will be represented in the next Parliament.

Two opinion polls published by the *Glasgow Herald* give the nationalists phenomenally increased support. In the north of Scotland, the poll by System Three, Scotland, gives the party 43 per cent, with the Tories second with 24 per cent. In the east, the nationalists are placed with 37 per cent. The Labour Party has 29 per cent and the Tories 23 per cent. Both polls show a sharp drop in Conservative support.

Mr William Wolfe, chairman of the SNP, cautiously admitted yesterday that the polls supported their own findings. He told a press conference in Edinburgh that if the forecast by the party's president, of one million SNP votes, came true this would represent a per cent of the Scottish poll, making the SNP statistically the largest party with 31 seats.

"If we get a mandate from the people of Scotland we will put forward a Bill and obtain by

constitutional means and reasoned debate a parliament for Scotland."

ORC reservations: The Labour Party enters the final hours of the election campaign in Scotland with a commanding 19.5 per cent lead over the Conservatives.

Support for the SNP appears to have faltered in the past week, after showing signs of reaching a breakthrough point in the middle of the campaign. The Labour Party has increased its share of support among committed voters by 4.5 per cent in the past week, largely, it would seem, as a result of a change of heart among some SNP and Liberal supporters.

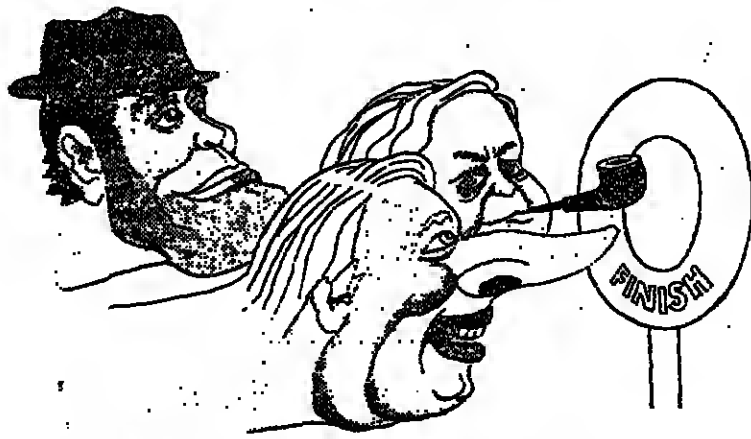
These are two of the major findings in the final election survey of Scotland carried out by Opinion Research Centre, and shown in the table below.

ORC estimates that there is less than one chance in a hundred that a Labour lead of 19.5 per cent in a survey of this size does not reflect a real Labour lead among the electorate as a whole, but ORC says that these figures should not be treated as a forecast of the outcome of the election. They are based on interviews carried out last weekend.

VOTING INTENTION (SCOTLAND)

	February Election	Sept 19-22	Sept 28-29	Now	GB now
C	32.9	24	22	23	33
Lab	36.7	41	56	42.5	43
L	7.9	12	11	9.5	20
SNP	21.9	23	28	25	3
Others	0.6	—	1	—	1
Lab lead over C	3.7	17	16	19.5	10
Voting intention not given	—	12	12	10	9

Note: * indicates less than 0.5%.



Another close finish?

You'll have to wait till Election Day to find out. But in the meantime, you can bet on it. Here are the odds that Joe Coral, the sportsman's bookmaker, are offering you the major parties.

Any Joe Coral office has full details of all the odds being offered. For a Credit Account, write or telephone to 282-283 Regent Street, London W.1. Tel: 01-734 7156 or Glasgow 041-562 3626.

2/7 LAB 11/4 CON 66/1 LIB		
Labour	Overall Maj.	Con.
8/1	1-5	20/1
10/1	7-12	20/1
12/1	13-18	25/1
12/1	19-24	33/1
14/1	25-30	50/1
14/1	31-36	50/1
16/1	37-42	66/1
16/1	43-48	109/1
20/1	49-54	150/1
20/1	55-60	150/1

Other interesting bets		
4/7	Labour to win and have an overall majority	
11/4	Labour to win with no overall majority	
5/1	Conservatives to win with no overall majority	
8/1	Conservatives to win and have an overall majority	
66/1	Liberal to win with no overall majority	
250/1	Liberal to win and have an overall majority	

Liberal	No. of seats	Scots Nat.
66/1	1-5	10/1
6/1	6-10	9/4
6/4	11-15	7/4
2/1	16-20	11/4
10/1	21-25	10/1
16/1	26-30	20/1
25/1	31-35	33/1
40/1	36-40	50/1

GENERAL ELECTION

Mr Jenkins emphasizes necessity for Labour supporters to vote despite victory forecasts by polls

From Peter Evans, Birmingham

The Labour Party needed to make a great effort to get its full vote out, Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, said at a press conference in Birmingham yesterday.

"I do not quite believe this morning's opinion polls," he said. "It is not going to be quite as easy or as decisive as that. I think, frankly, there are going to be difficulties about getting a turnout... as big as in February."

The alternative to a Labour victory was Mr Heath getting in with a curious combination of people with policies as yet unspecified.

Mr Jenkins said Mr Heath's idea for a national coalition government had not gone well. He had done it in "too political a way."

Mr Jenkins agreed that there was a widespread underlying desire for the nation to pull together, but this was something different from just putting together a coalition at the top. That was unconvincing and clearly a device to keep the Tory party in power.

People were more interested in policies than coalitions. "I think Mr Heath has done it the wrong way round," Mr Jenkins said.

Asked if he ever envisaged the possibility in the future of leading a party of the centre, he replied that he had made his position quite clear. He was fighting for a Labour victory at Birmingham, Stochford and for a victory for the Labour Party in the country.

On Labour's inflation policy, asked if he ruled out the possibility of import controls, Mr Jenkins replied that import controls increased the possibility of retaliation and a down-turn in world trade. But he added: "You can never totally rule out import controls."

Mrs Thatcher, shadow spokes-



Mrs Thatcher at yesterday's Conservative press conference reiterating the party's promise to reduce interest on home mortgages to 9½ per cent by Christmas.

man on housing and the environment, repeated the five Conservative pledges on housing and rates when she spoke at the party press conference yesterday morning. (Geoffrey Smith writes). They are:

1. To reduce the maximum mortgage interest rate to 9½ per cent by Christmas. This will not affect rate of interest paid to depositors. Those who have very large loans will only get the benefit of the 9½ per cent ceiling on the first £25,000.
2. To help first-time home buyers save for the deposit with a £1 grant for every £2 saved regularly, up to a maximum of

£5 weekly, over two years.

3. To give council tenants at least three years' standing the legal right to buy their house or flat at two-thirds of the market price.
4. To give immediate help to all ratepayers by transferring the cost of teachers' salaries and more of the cost of the police and fire services from the rates to the Exchequer as from next April.
5. To abolish the system of household rates altogether over the normal four to five-year period of a Parliament and replace it by a more broadly based system of taxes.

By Stewart Tendler
Hopes of a potential Watergate to spice the last minutes of the election were raised yesterday when police were called to the Liberal Party headquarters in London to investigate a burglary.

However, the raiders who ransacked 10 offices in the headquarters, off the Strand, seem to have garnered few secrets. Indeed party officials said they did not think there were any left at this stage of the campaign for anybody to take.

Tory pledge to drop insurance increases

By Our Political Staff

Conservative pledges for immediate action on the social services were set out yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Opposition spokesman covering the department.

A Conservative government would pay a Christmas bonus to all eight million pensioners, £10 for a single pensioner and £20 for a married couple, he said. It would increase retirement pensions and other long-term benefits every six months.

The next increase would come at the latest by next February. Sir Geoffrey said the Conservatives would ensure that the 1,800,000 million self-employed people did not have to pay the "huge unfair increases" in contributions—as much as £3 extra a week—that Labour would impose.

The self-employed include a very wide range of people who have the initiative to run their own businesses. Many of them are small shopkeepers. They should be encouraged by Government policy, not penalized.

Sir Geoffrey said a Conservative government would implement in full the recommendations of the Halsey Committee for the pay of nurses and related medical professions. It would set up an independent inquiry to make urgent recommendations for improving the Whitley machinery, which determined pay and conditions for many of those working in the health service.

In addition, the Conservatives would start their second pension scheme to help future generations of pensioners not later than April, 1976, and would introduce the tax credit scheme. This would go a long way towards ending means tests altogether. It would mean much more effective help for pensioners and poorer families. The earnings rule for pensioners would be abolished.

Election notebook

Now the waves are helping to rule Britannia

Radio and television have largely replaced the hustings in providing a platform on which the British public can argue face-to-face with their politicians. Audiences at public meetings tend increasingly to be screened, and the more argumentative of them tend to be cut off from their argument after their first question. On Radio 4's admirable *Election Call* one voter has already told Mr Cyril Smith to go and get stuffed—a suggestion of Carthaginian fantasy—and Robin Day does his best, unlike the chairmen of public meetings, to stop the politicians evading the question and answering one they would prefer to have been asked.

The programmes have attracted an average of more than 400 calls at this election, with many more queuing to get through to the 16 direct lines to the studio. Advance notice is taken of the proposed questions, and the producer prepares a short list of the best, most topical, most relevant, most amusing and least nutty. The questioners are then rung back and the argument goes out live, with Robin Day acting as the only safety net against outrage and obscenity.

Mr Barford Tate, the executive producer who picks the final short list of questions, says: "The strength of the programme is that the general public ask the questions they want answered far more directly and persistently than professional journalists would dare to." When Mr Callaghan turned a question back on his caller yesterday, the caller said sharply: "It is my Election Call to you, not yours to me."

Granada Television has broken new ground by proving that, contrary to the misapprehensions of the party managers, it is possible to televise a large political debate without it degenerating into an unproportionate bare-prejudice garden. Its programme *Granada 500* started in February by scientifically selecting a cross-section of about 500 voters in Preston, a notorious thermometer seat tending with monotonous regularity to the party that wins the election. These were exposed to all the election propaganda by radio, television and newspaper to see what effect it had on them. They were also made to attend a daily debate lasting over an hour with such non-political experts as economists and builders in Preston Guild-hall.

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Mr Barford Tate, the executive pro-

Nobody created a scene or a hubbub. Nobody died of boredom. It was such a notable success and contribution to the political process that the programme secured a great coup by getting the three party leaders to appear separately at this election, with time allocated to a ratio of 5:5:4 to Labour, Conservatives and Liberals. However, the party leaders drew the lode at all arranging to be in Preston on the same evening, so the magnificent 500 had to be brought to London in a special train. And the voters of Preston, understandably reluctant to suffer such a protracted ordeal for nothing, now have to be paid a fee of £3 an appearance, with the possibility of negotiating more open to those in particularly wellpaid work.

Discord in Tanochobae: Dr Cameron (Andrew Cruickshank) is campaigning for the Scottish nationalists in Kinross and West Perthshire. Bill Simpson (Dr Finlay of the Casebook) has done a party political broadcast in Scotland for the Tories. The Conservative headquarters' switchboard was jammed for hours afterwards by callers saying that it was the best party political broadcast they had heard.

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Shadow minister who has grown in stature through airing parents' woes

By Tim Devlin

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, who has been largely responsible for bringing education up as an election issue, has grown in political stature since taking over the shadow portfolio of education last summer. If the Conservatives win, it will be in no small part due to his eloquent advocacy of Tory policy throughout the campaign.

But what has been good for the man and for his party has also been a mixed blessing for education. The three main tenets of his educational policy are: the preservation of good grammar and direct grant schools; a charter of parents' rights; and the raising of educational standards.

He is also campaigning for a flexible school-leaving age, a better deal for universities, the open-dissolution of the colleges of education, better-paid teachers, more nursery schools, higher grants for married women students and reduced contributions from parents on student grants.

His manifesto has all the strengths of an opportunist document, devised swiftly and skilfully in the run-up to an election: it airs the profound grievances held by many sections of the educational community.

But it has the weakness of promising much in advance and of having an air of salvation for schools vested in St John-Stevens.

The salvation for schools lies in a speedy decision to hurry the



Mr St John-Stevens: raised education as an election issue.

controversy over grammar schools and comprehensives. It has bedevilled education for more than 10 years to the exclusion of almost everything else and to the detriment of the whole. It does not need research from America or from an international team of educationists to prove that the appointment of good teachers, particularly good headteachers, and allowing them more freedom to carry out their reforms

Mr Powell ends his campaign with pipe tunes

From Christopher Warman, Banbridge, co Down

Mr Enoch Powell ended his ninth election campaign yesterday, attempting this time to return to the House of Commons, from which he exited himself last February, with a final day of canvassing and a rally in the heart of his constituency of Down, South.

During the last fortnight he has covered more than 3,000 miles by car in the constituency and has addressed 35 public meetings in the 1,000 square miles of Down, South, which stretch from near Belfast in the north almost to the border with the Irish Republic.

The climax came last night with a rally in Banbridge preceded by a traditional march through the town. The procession was led by several pipe and flute bands, with such evocative names as The Banbridge Young Defenders and the Geoghan Memorial Pipe Band, at this unusual ceremony for Mr Powell's political career. He and his wife, Pamela, rode in anticipatory triumph through the town on the back of a lorry.

Mr Powell will spend today visiting polling stations in 67 different locations. The latest indications are that in spite of a certain amount of cavilling in certain quarters at the intrusion of an outsider, and particularly Powellites' utterances on the need to vote Labour, the voters will turn out in force for him.

State of the parties

The Speaker	1
Labour	298
Conservative	296
Liberal	15
Ulster Unionists	11
Scottish nationalists	7
Welsh nationalists	2
Social Democratic and Labour (Mr G. Fitt)	1
Democratic Labour (Mr Dick Tavener, QC)	1
Ind Labour (Mr E. Milne)	1
Vacant (Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Swansea, East, both formerly held by Labour)	2
Total	638

Liberal burglary is not a Watergate

By Stewart Tendler

Hopes of a potential Watergate to spice the last minutes of the election were raised yesterday when police were called to the Liberal Party headquarters in London to investigate a burglary.

However, the raiders who ransacked 10 offices in the headquarters, off the Strand, seem to have garnered few secrets. Indeed party officials said they did not think there were any left at this stage of the campaign for anybody to take.

A preliminary investigation by detectives and staff revealed very discriminatory criminals. After making their entrance via a fire escape and a window, they took some aspirins, a woman's make-up kit and a weekend bag. They left untouched a pool note on a desk but took a 10p piece. A portable television set and office equipment went untouched but the burglars could not resist a nip of whisky.

One climbed on a desk to examine files and his footprints were discovered. So were a pair of men's shoes. A safe was opened with keys which had been left in the offices, but then the burglars found the keys would not work on a second safe which they left unopened.

The police, while treating the burglary seriously, dismissed any connotations of political chicanery. After all, two other offices had been entered near by.

Mr John Holmes, the party's chief agent, said: "There seems to be little damage apart from inconvenience."

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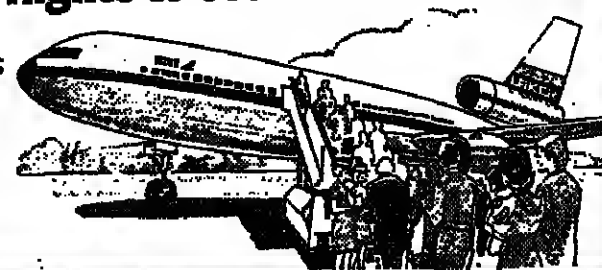
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Information from:

Phyllis Bowman, 19 Queen Anne's Grove, London W.4 Telephone: 01-994 1060

WEST EUROPE

Private lives of many West Germans kept on secret service files

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, Oct 9
The West German secret service kept massive files on 54 of the country's leading public figures, a parliamentary inquiry committee heard in Bonn today.

In evidence given to the special committee investigating the espionage scandal which led Herr Brandt to resign as Chancellor, in May, Professor Horst Ehmke, Minister in the Chancellery, and thus responsible for intelligence, until 1972, read out a list of names on which he said files had been kept.

The federal intelligence service is officially and explicitly restricted in its operations to the gathering of information abroad and has no such duties within West Germany.

Professor Ehmke said he had been told in December, 1969, not long after he became Chancellery Minister, that the files existed. His informant was the former Lieutenant General Gerhard Wessel, head of federal intelligence in succession to the famous General Reinhard Gehlen, who retired in 1967.

On hearing of this, he had ordered Herr Wessel to put the dossiers "in the oven of the paper shredder". The files had contained "all possible" information on the people covered, including a "jolly jumble" of details.

Among the names he mentioned as having been included in the extra-curricular internal files of the secret service were Herr Heinrich Lübke (former federal President), Herr Brandt, Dr Kurt-Georg Kiesinger and Dr Ludwig Erhard (all former Chancellors).

The list given by Professor Ehmke includes leading personalities, past and present, of all political parties, including

ministers, opposition leaders, key parliamentary deputies, diplomats, senior civil servants, economists and scientists. The names form a concentrated "Who's Who" of public life in West Germany in the 25 years of the existence of the federal republic.

The former minister also disclosed that the secret service had observed contacts between leading Social Democrat politicians and communists in Eastern Europe and Italy.

In his evidence, which caused a considerable sensation here, Professor Ehmke also said that the secret service had recruited West German journalists as agents in what he called a "campaign" against the Social Democrats and the ruling coalition which included them and the Free Democrats.

The Secret Service had defied repeated orders from the Chancellery to refrain from espionage within the country's borders. Two years after he had ordered the destruction of the secret dossiers, it had been discovered that the intelligence agency had been gathering information on the internal affairs of the Social Democratic Party.

That was in 1971. This had illegally been passed on to "interested persons" in the political field. Professor Ehmke added that Herr Wessel himself, even before the coalition came to power at the end of 1969, had given orders that all espionage activity inside West Germany must cease.

Professor Ehmke emphasized that the vast majority of intelligence officers did their duty and had often defended them as the responsible minister. He was not attacking the intelligence service as an institution, but he was criticizing the leadership of the agency at the relevant time.

President Ford's economic plan explained to EEC

From Roger Berthoud

Brussels, Oct 9

President Ford's special trade representative, Mr William Eberle, today began a tour designed to allay European fears that the President's latest economic proposals could jeopardize European exports and jobs, and lead to controls on vital United States agricultural exports like cereals and soy beans.

In a busy day before going on to Paris, Mr Eberle assured members of the European Commission, Mr Tiedemann, the Belgian Prime Minister, and representatives of Denmark, Ireland, Holland and Luxembourg that last night's package of proposals was "neutral to positive", and not deflationary.

Mr Eberle told a press conference that the President's proposals were designed to promote policies of the open market, as opposed to heavy-duty protectionist policies. This was a direction in which the United States could give leadership, he thought.

Mr Eberle's overall message was that President Ford had been internationally minded and had been careful to avoid selfish anti-inflationary measures, which Herr Schmidt and Mr Healey among others had

feared could aggravate the present international economic recession.

Last night's proposals, he said, would not only help to fight inflation, but would also encourage the strong and growing United States economy with continued growth in imports from Europe and elsewhere.

He did not believe general controls would have to be introduced on exports of agricultural products. Referring to last week's blocking by President Ford of a substantial grain deal with the Soviet Union, Mr Eberle said the Russians had not cooperated in giving the Administration information about its needs and intentions. People could not be allowed to make massive purchases without the Administration knowing what was going on.

Finally Mr Eberle said the prospects for the Administration's beleaguered trade bills passage through Congress were "excellent" after a meeting late last night between Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, and the key senators involved. The Gatt round of multilateral trade talks, designed to promote further liberalization, must begin unless the Bill passes safely through Congress.

Hospital blamed for murder done by former patient

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Oct 9

A French court today held a psychiatric hospital responsible for a murder committed by one of its former patients 45 days after he was discharged as cured.

The widow of a Marseilles hotel owner murdered by the former patient in February, 1970, had claimed 120,000 francs (£10,900) damages from the state in compensation for her husband's death.

The release of the patient, named as Thomas Ferrandini, had been approved routinely. But the court ruled that the state bore no responsibility for the murder committed by M Ferrandini and laid the blame on the hospital, one of whose doctors had recommended his release.—Reuter.

W Germany can join European warplane project

From Charles Hargrove

Bonn, Oct 9

The way was cleared today for West Germany to join Britain and Italy in developing the next stage of Europe's highest single defence project—the multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA).

The Bundestag (Lower House) defence committee and the ruling Social Democrats' parliamentary party approved a Government proposal to build nine prototypes of the all-purpose, swing-wing aircraft, which had its maiden flight on August 14.

It is planned so far to build 802 aircraft—380 for Britain, 322 for West Germany and 100 for France. The three countries are under strong pressure to accept American or French designs for their next generation of warplanes.—Reuter.

French employers on the attack

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Oct 9

A newspaper has commented that the French Government's anti-inflation policy had succeeded in antagonizing both employers and labour with credit restrictions and taxes on profits on the one hand and the threat to employment on the other.

The 1,500 delegates of the French Employers Federation meeting in congress at Lille confirm this. M François Ceyrac, its chairman, and M Jacques Ferry, head of its international relations committee, sharply criticized the Government's policy as Malthusian, short-term, and piecemeal. There was a contradiction between a policy of retrenchment and the need for a dynamic policy to restore the balance of payments.

M Ferry condemned the decision to limit oil imports next year as Malthusian. However, the employers had not come to Lille "to raise the standard of revolt, but to see how the exporting spirit could be developed in France".

The warning to the Government was clear, however, which M Ceyrac emphasized that

rationing of oil imports was the very opposite of an encouragement to export because it throttled production.

Instead of paralysing investment and restricting the cash reserves of firms through credit restrictions, the Government should encourage them to win the battle of exports. The oil crisis contained a threat of paralysis for French industry.

The answer to this challenge cannot be the work of a handful of specialists and technocrats. M Ceyrac said in a dig at the Minister of Finance and his officials. "It calls for a deep-seated reaction, affecting the attitudes of all of us."

The challenge had to be met in an atmosphere of freedom, freedom of enterprise, freedom to trade. Otherwise "we would move very rapidly towards regression, towards a closed economy, and generalized state control. Twenty years of effort, of progress, of achievement would be brought to naught, for in the past 20 years we have succeeded, beyond all forecasts, in achieving a breakthrough to the world".

He demanded a long-term policy drawn up in consultation with employers.

M Norbert Segard, State Sec-



Airlift for birds: Swallows, sent by air from Switzerland, are released near Nice.

Airlift is killing swallows

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Oct 9

While thousands of swallows, so enthralled by hunger and cold as to be unable to cross the Alps, are continuing to be shipped by air for release on the Mediterranean or in North Africa, disquiet is felt over the death rate.

Up to a quarter are reported to have died.

On Monday, the entire cargo space on a Geneva-Tunis flight will be available for swallows, which will be taken by truck from Tunis for release about 300 miles south.

Paris, Oct 9.—The French League for the Protection of Birds today told people to stop collecting swallows to be flown from cold areas. It said they were unable to stand the aircraft flight and "were dying in ever growing numbers".

The migration mystery has been partially explained by the theory that swallows nested late this year and the young were too small and weak to fight the sudden arrival of winter.—Agence France-Presse.

Bernard Levin, page 16

Television staff consider two-days-a-week strikes

Paris, Oct 9.—Staff of the state-run French radio and television system (ORTF), who went on strike yesterday, announced today that the stoppage would continue tomorrow.

They are seeking guarantees of continued employment when the Government's plan to divide the organization into seven separate services comes into effect on January 1.

Union leaders said the staff would be asked to choose between two possible lines of action. They could continue the strike while widening and intensifying the impact of their protest.

Alternatively, they could change tactics, giving notice each week of a strike of 48 hours.

Leading article, page 17

Two Dutch MPs involved in bribery charges

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Oct 9

A new world record in mental arithmetic is believed to have been set by Mr Willem Klein, a Dutchman on the staff of Cern, the European organization for nuclear research.

In front of an audience of United Nations staff, including computer specialists, he extracted the twenty-third root of a 200-digit number in 18 minutes 7 seconds.

Mr Klein, who is 62, has been 16 years with Cern, where mathematical problems are often referred to him, although the laboratory has a computer.

Claim to speed record in mental arithmetic

From Our Correspondent

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Liner sails to a decision on its fate in Le Havre

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Oct 9

The liner France left its moorings off St Vaast-la-Hougue, in the Cherbourg peninsula, last afternoon, and arrived at Le Havre three and a half hours later.

The decision to return to the base port was taken by a substantial majority of the striking crew, in a secret ballot. It was taken at a general meeting on board the liner this morning in endorsement of an agreement reached by representatives of the union of the Merchant Marine for the Administration and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, which operates the liner. About one-fifth of the men opposed the agreement.

Captain Christian Petré, the liner's master, was on the bridge and in full control of the ship.

M Caville, the State Secretary for Transport, said that the agreement on the France was "honourable and acceptable". But the conflict is hardly solved by its return to Le Havre. It does not imply any assurances about its future, which, together with the 1,500 jobs at stake, remains the main point at issue for the strikers.

A statement by M Velichkovitch, the Secretary General for the Merchant Marine, last night emphasized that negotiations about the reemployment of the crew could not wait upon the long studies about the future of the France.

Italian railways demand £4 fare for goldfish

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Oct 9

The Italian railways have demanded immediate payment from a young woman of 6,000 lire (£4), the estimated fare of two goldfish she carried from Rome to Cassino.

The fish set off from Rome on June 22 carried in a jamby by Signorina Carmela Tiseo, aged 50. The ticket collector insisted that they came in the category of beasts weighing up to 25 kilograms.

Signorina Tiseo told him that the regulation was stupid, and today, given the demand for payment, commented: "I think that even a Christian only pays 1,550 lire from Rome to Cassino".

Fire at British car factory in Spain

Pamplona, Spain, Oct 9.—Fire broke out at the main plant of the British-owned motor firm of Audi near here today. There were no immediate reports of casualties.—Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Cyprus expulsion threat against holders of Turkish visas

From Paul Martin, Nicosia, Oct 9
 Britons and other foreigners with interests in the Turkish occupied area will be hit by a new move by the Cyprus Government to restrict the entry of Turkish passport holders. The Government has threatened all those who enter Cyprus through Turkish held ports with instant deportation should they cross to the Greek controlled part of the island.
 This is the first move by the Government to restrict the traffic via the Turkish mainland to the northern part of the island. As the only other route is by ship from Piraeus in Greece and occasionally from Haifa to the southern ports of Limassol and Larnaca it will affect many foreigners coming to the island.
 The Turks had been promoting travel to Cyprus through their southern port of Mersin. Regular ferry services operate between Mersin and Pafos, as well as Kyrenia. On arrival the Turkish-held ports travellers are issued with a visa bearing the title "The Autonomous Turkish Administration".
 Hitherto, the only legal visa issued by the Cyprus Government.
 In recent days several foreigners living on the Turkish-held side have had difficulty because they had this Turkish stamp in their passports. The Greek Cypriots maintain that the stamp is not valid and that they

are technically illegal immigrants. As most who come to Cyprus find that the only convenient place to live is on the Greek Cypriot side, this rule will cause problems.
 The Greek Cypriots have grown increasingly concerned about the manner in which the Turks have gone ahead with their plans to set up a completely separate administration with its own superstructure. In addition to immigration, the Turkish Cypriots have plans to issue overprinted Turkish passports to their people and have their own postal service using overprinted Turkish stamps.
 The reason for the Greek move on travel is that the Government is determined to prove to all concerned that unless there is cooperation between the two sides the Turkish side of the island will be unworkable. As the Turks have declared their desire to have British and other foreign residents settle in areas under their control the question of travel is important.
 The Greek Cypriots have lost their air links since the Turks pushed their forces up to the perimeter of Nicosia international airport. The airport is now under United Nations control.
 However, plans are afoot to go ahead with the Paphos airport project, and it is thought that an airfield capable of handling medium-sized passenger aircraft could be completed within a few months.

Gen Amin praises the Colonial Service

Kampala, Oct 9.—President Amin of Uganda today praised the efficiency of the British Colonial Civil Service which administered the country before independence.
 In a broadcast to mark the twelfth anniversary of Ugandan independence, he also paid tribute to the service's dedication and discipline.
 He said: "Although the British colonial regime in Uganda for over 70 years was chiefly characterized by a systematic exploitation of our economy, social order and culture in favour of non-Ugandans, it is true that that administration in certain circumstances was positive."
 The President added that Africa would not be free until the whole continent and surrounding islands had been liberated from colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism. Uganda shall continue to condemn in the strongest terms minority regimes policing South Africa, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and so-called Portuguese territories in Africa.
 President Amin today conferred the Order of the Source of the Nile (Second Class) on Miss Elizabeth Bagaya, the Ugandan Foreign Minister, Mr Obooth Oduku, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr Emmanuel Kakhweya.
 The latter was responsible for evaluating the losses to British firms and estates when they were taken over by Uganda.



A would-be Israeli settler expostulates with Israeli troops who prevented him and other Jews from slipping into the occupied West Bank area of Jordan.

Go-slow Calcutta dockers arrested

Calcutta, Oct 9.—At least 15 Calcutta dock workers have been arrested under Government emergency measures invoked to break a go-slow at the port, the Dock Labour Board said today.
 A board official said the go-slow, which began on September 27, had demands for higher bonus payments, had seriously affected the unloading of grain ships.
 The central Government declared an emergency in the port

last Sunday and invoked the Defence of India Regulation, under which any person abandoning his employment without reasonable cause faces imprisonment or a fine or both.
 In spite of the decree, the dock workers staged a mken strike by working a half shift.
 Several people were reported to have been injured today in clashes between supporters of two rival political groups in the Kashmir capital of Srinagar.
 Police used batons and tear

gas to break up fights between supporters of the Kashmir Plebiscite Front and the pro-Pakistan Awami Action Committee.
 Trouble broke out after Mr Maulana Farooq, chairman of the Awami Action Committee, tried to address a Muslim congregation at a mosque.
 The action committee is strongly opposed to moves by the front to make peace with the Indian Government.—Reuter.

Death toll of 16 in Sudan floods

Khartoum, Oct 9.—A government group called today for the immediate evacuation of low-lying areas in southern Sudan to avert epidemics as flood waters were reported to be on the rise.
 Sixteen people have already been killed and more than 250,000 made homeless in the densely-populated area stricken by the floods, the worst for 28 years.—Reuter.

Deadline set for surrender of Ethiopian governor

Addis Ababa, Oct 9.—Ethiopia's military Government today set Friday afternoon as a deadline for the surrender of a provincial Governor who is the grandson of a former Emperor and is married to the granddaughter of the deposed Emperor Haile Selassie.
 The wanted man is Ras Duke Mengesha Seyoum, he outlawed Governor of the northern province of Tigre, who has been accused by the military Government of dictatorial and corrupt practices.
 Reliable reports say he is in the wild mountainous region of Tigre and Eritrea, where he has many friends in the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), a secessionist movement that has been fighting the armed forces for more than a decade.
 In a broadcast statement the ruling Military Council did not say where he was hiding, but indicated he was still in Ethiopia by saying he would be brought out and arrested and is properly confiscated if he did not surrender on Friday.
 Ras Mengesha, aged 48,

grandson of Emperor Yohannes who was killed at the turn of the century fighting the Sudanese, is married to Haile Selassie's granddaughter Aida.
 He disappeared with the eldest of his five sons after Haile Selassie was deposed in a coup last month. His wife is under house arrest in Addis Ababa with her only daughter.
 Addis Ababa was calmer today than it was during and after Monday's shooting between rival army factions, in which five soldiers died and six were wounded.
 The military Government today withdrew armoured vehicles guarding the two rebellious Engineering Corps barracks, but left strong troop detachments round the buildings.
 The Government said some troublemakers had been arrested and would be court-martialled. Dissident troops have been campaigning for an end to military rule and a return to civilian government.—Reuter.

Canberra bans sale of Melbourne deed

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Oct 9
 The Australian Government has prohibited the export of any document relating to the sale of land between early Victorian settlers and the aborigines.
 The Government had been informed that what is known as the third Batman deed was about to be sold by a Melbourne man to a British buyer. The deed relates to the sale of land in which Melbourne now stands. It is regarded as a valuable historical document and Canberra considers that it should not be permitted to leave the country.

Australian union warned on 'ship payment'

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Oct 9
 The Royal Commission investigating indemnity payments by shipowners to maritime unions was told in Melbourne today that the Australian Seamen's Union had threatened to place a bar on the British-owned ship Wild Avocet unless the owners paid \$A34,000 (£18,000) to the union.
 This was said to be the difference between British and Australian maritime wages. The union was alleged to have said that the money would be paid over to members of the crew and not placed in a special union fund.

Royal tribute to Fiji's links with Britain

Suva, Fiji, Oct 9.—The Prince of Wales today visited Suva, the first capital of Fiji, and met 12 direct descendants of the chiefs who ceded Fiji to Queen Victoria 100 years ago tomorrow.
 He told them that he would have been allowed to meet them on the spot where the cession had taken place if they had not felt that it would have fulfilled its obligations in accepting Fiji as a colony, bringing order and tranquillity to their war-torn land.
 The Prince is spending four days in Fiji for the centenary of its becoming a British colony and the fourth anniversary of its independence.
 He told the chiefs that the cession of their country to Britain by their ancestors had been an

"astonishing act". Anglo-Fijian friendship had since been based on "an almost unique mutual respect and understanding, not greatly changed by the advent of independence."
 Fiji was a stable country and the Prince thought that its connection with the British Crown had contributed to this.
 He was proud "to feel the strength of those bonds, which have no reason as far as I can see to wither and disappear."
 The Prince rejoiced the Royal Navy survey ship Hydra and sailed about 15 miles to the islet of Bau, a fortified stronghold which had been the home of Chief Ratu Seru Cakobau, who led the move for cession.
 He then returned to the main island of Viti Levu and drove back to Suva.—AP.

Princess leaves Poland after 'cordial' talks

Warsaw, Oct 9.—Princess Alexandra today ended her five-day official visit to Poland, the first by a member of the Royal family to a Warsaw Pact country.
 Before leaving by special flight, the Princess and her husband, Mr Angus Ogilvy, met Mr Zdzislaw Ulman, the Minister of Culture.
 Princess Alexandra was in Warsaw primarily to open an exhibition of Polish coins and medals by Major-General Zygmunt Wlodek, who served with the Polish forces in London during the Second World War.
 The press today increased its coverage of the visit, which was said by the Polish authorities to be of great importance. The Princess was accompanied by her husband, Mr Angus Ogilvy, and a member of the Polish Communist Party organ Trybuna, who put its report of the visit in the front pages.

Polish television last night showed its first film coverage of the visit.
 Princess Alexandra and Mr Ogilvy were received then by Mr Henryk Jablonski, the Polish head of state, for what the press today described as "cordial" talks.
 The late Duke and Duchess of Kent, the parents of the Princess, had spent their honeymoon in Poland, in 1934.
 Our Berlin Correspondent writes: Princess Alexandra and Mr Ogilvy arrived in Berlin today as guests of Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador to West Germany.
 The Princess was entertained by Herr Klaus Schütz, the Chief Burgomaster, tonight. She attended a chamber music concert at Charlottenburg castle.



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*The sand dunes will be reinstated exactly as they were.

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Law Report October 9 1974

Sole agent cannot appoint subagent without authority

John McCann and Company v Pow
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Orr and Lord Justice Browne

[Judgments delivered October 8]
Estate agents acting as "sole agents" for the vendor of a property do not have authority to delegate their functions to a subagent without the express or implied authority of the vendor.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Mr Raymond Pow, now of New Orleans, United States, from Judge Lermann, QC, at Epsom County Court, who had awarded to estate agents, John McCann and Company, of West Street, Epsom, £275 on their claim for commission alleged to be due on the sale of a leasehold flat at Bratwell Court, Downhill Road, Epsom.

Mr Roger Henderson for the vendor, Mr Mark Tennant for the estate agents.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in August, 1972, Mr Pow instructed John McCann and Company to sell his flat and told them that he wanted £14,250 and that if they introduced a purchaser he would pay a reasonable commission. The estate agents advertised for three weeks in local newspapers, describing themselves in the advertisements as "sole agents". They certainly believed they were sole agents, and that Mr Pow was to deal privately with himself, though he could not appoint any other agents.

On August 29, the date found by the judge, a Mr Rudd came to see the flat. Mr Pow asked him if he came from McCann and he said no. So Mr Pow thought he could negotiate privately without having to pay agents' commission. That was what happened—and the judge found that Mr Pow had no idea then that any other estate agents were involved.

They agreed together a price of £14,200, and by September 5 their respective solicitors were preparing contracts. On September 7 Mr Pow mentioned the matter to McCann, who said: "If that deal does not go through perhaps we can appoint some local agents". Mr Pow agreed, but made it clear that it was not to prejudice his private negotiations. Not until that date did Mr Pow authorize the appointment of subagents.

By September 13 McCann had discovered that Mr Rudd had got information about the flat from a firm called Douglas and Company. Thereupon they said that Douglas were their subagents, that they had instructed them some time before, and that because their subagents had introduced the property to Mr Rudd they were entitled to their commission.

Mr Pow disputed that. He said that he had never heard of Douglas and that so far as he knew the sale to Mr Rudd had been arranged privately.

McCann then brought an action in the county court for the full commission and pleaded in terms that their authorized subagents, Douglas, had introduced Mr Rudd and that he had thereafter bought the property. Mr Pow, who acted in person, objected to any payment because he said McCann had not introduced Mr Rudd. There was also a dispute about the date when Mr Rudd first came into the picture for McCann for £275 commission.

One point would dispose of the appeal. McCann claimed to have introduced Mr Rudd through subagents. He said McCann had not appointed an agent but authority to appoint a subagent except with the express or implied authority of the principal. The general rule was that an agent had no authority to appoint a subagent except with the express or implied authority of the principal. The judge found that Mr Pow had no authority to appoint a subagent without the express or implied authority of the vendor.

On the authorities it seemed to his Lordship that an estate agent—certainly one who claimed to be a "sole agent"—had no express or implied authority to appoint a subagent because the agent's functions required skill and confidence to perform. Those functions and duties were to use his best endeavours to sell the property at the named price to a purchaser ready, willing and able to purchase it; to prepare particulars of the property accurately and not to make any misrepresentations; to receive applications and make appointments to view; to negotiate the best price that could be obtained in the circumstances; and in the course of negotiations to receive a deposit either as stakeholder or for the vendor. All those functions and duties required skill and confidence, so much so that it would be impossible to say that an agent had any authority to delegate them to a subagent. That was borne out by the authorities such as *Mullens v Miller* (1882) 22 Ch Div 191 and *Moloney v Hardy and Moorhead* (1970) 216 EG 15821.

But Mr Tennant, for McCann, said that the sub-agency here was very limited; that Douglas were only entrusted with the ministerial act of passing on the details of a property. He relied on the statement that when an act was purely ministerial and did not involve confidence or discretion there could be a delegation of it. He had referred to the entertaining case of *St Margaret, Rochester v Burial Ground v Thompson* (1871) LR 6 CP 445, where a sexton was held to be able to appoint a deputy to dig a grave and ring the bell because that could be done by any reasonably competent person so that if the sexton was busy someone else could do those things; and the court had pointed out that if it was something where peculiar personal skill was required, such as a painter to paint a picture, he could not hand it over to someone else to perform.

Mr Tennant said that where

there was a mere introduction of a possible purchaser that could be delegated as ministerial. But the answer was in the facts. It had not been treated in the least as ministerial. On the contrary, Douglas themselves had prepared particulars copied from McCann which they issued on their own paper, giving a full description of the premises and saying "View by appointment through agents Messrs Douglas and Company" and that they took every care to ensure that the particulars were correct. Douglas also claimed to be entitled to receive the deposit; and McCann wrote letters saying the deposit should be paid to Douglas.

So it was plain that whatever authority McCann gave Douglas it was not limited to a purely ministerial act. It was, as they had pleaded, a delegation to Douglas as a subagent for them.

But they had no authority to do that on August 14 when they said they had done it, and on August 29, the date of the introduction of Mr Rudd. Douglas had no authority whatever to act as subagent as Mr Pow at that date had not authorized McCann to appoint any subagents. So the alleged introduction was made at a time when there was no authority to

delegate to a subagent and therefore the fundamental point established by McCann to commission failed because it was not their act by which the sale was affected.

The justice of the case was that Mr Pow should not be held liable; he had put the flat into the hands of McCann who claimed, as he was aware, to be sole agents and knew he had not appointed anyone else as subagents. When Mr Rudd came to Mr Pow and said "I don't come from McCann", he was entitled to say to himself "In those circumstances I am not liable to pay agents' commission and I can negotiate privately" and bring the price down as he had done. It would be unjust that he should be saddled with a claim for commission.

The appeal should be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE ORR, concurring, said that the appeal should be allowed on the ground that McCann had no authority to appoint Douglas as subagents. There had been no evidence of a usage in the business of estate agents which would authorize the appointment of subagents.

Lord Justice Browne agreed. Solicitors: Bowles & Co, Epsom; A. R. Drummond & Co, Epsom.

18 put on electoral register

Regina v Hammond, Ex parte Nottingham City Council
Eighteen people in Nottingham will be entitled to vote tomorrow as the result of a mandatory order made by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

The Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Milmo and Mr Justice Ackner granted an application by Nottingham City Council for an order of mandamus directing the electoral registration officer, Mr Michael Harry Frank Hammond, to correct the register by including

the names of 18 electors who were omitted from the register on its publication in February.

The grounds of the application were that the omission of the names would deprive the electors of their right to vote at parliamentary and local government elections during the currency of the register.

The Lord Chief Justice said that the court would follow well-established precedent and say that mandamus should go to correct the register in respect of the deficiencies shown in the application.

Readvertising amended winding up petition

In re Manual Work Services (Construction) Ltd.
Before Mr Justice Megarry
[Judgment delivered October 8]

Where a petition seeking compulsory winding up of a company, already in voluntary liquidation, has been advertised but at the hearing it is sought to amend the prayer so as to seek the voluntary liquidation to continue under the supervision of the court, the only fair course is for the creditors generally, if all of them are not before the court, to be given due warning of the actual order the petitioner seeks, and the petition, as amended, should be readadvertised.

His Lordship, on an application by the petitioner, Kevin Docherty trading as Surveyors Associates, with the assent of the supporting and opposing creditors, gave leave to amend the petition for compulsory winding up of Manual Work Services (Construction) Ltd. in voluntary liquidation, so as to seek an order for voluntary liquidation under the supervision of the court and adjourned the petition for 28 days for its readvertisement.

Mr Charles Bonney for the petitioner and the supporting creditors; Mr Stephen Hunt for the opposing creditors; Mr Philip Heslop for the liquidator.

His LORDSHIP said that on January 2, 1974, the company passed a special resolution for voluntary winding up, but at the creditors' meeting held the same day it was unanimously agreed that a voluntary winding up was unacceptable by reason of the company's general indebtedness.

On March 19 a judgment creditor presented a petition praying that the company should be wound up by the court under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1948, "or that such other order may be made as shall be just". The petition was advertised as being "Petition for the winding up" of the company, with nothing said about other relief.

After various adjournments, the petitioner, with the assent of both

supporting and opposing creditors, asked that, instead of the usual compulsory winding-up order, the court should order that the winding up should continue under the supervision of the court. In those circumstances the question arose whether the petition, duly amended, ought to be readadvertised.

In a number of cases the court had dispensed with readvertisement: *In re United Bacon Curing Co* ([1890] WN 74), *In re Civil Service Brewery Co* ([1893] WN 5) and *In re Waterproof Materials Co* ([1893] WN 12) might be in that category. On the other hand, readvertisement was required in *In re New Oriental Bank Corporation* ([1892] 2 Ch 523) and in *In re New Morgan Gold Mining Co* ([1893] WN 79). It was not easy to perceive in cases so shortly reported as most of those were what the principle was.

Some assistance was to be found in *In re National Whole Meal Bread and Biscuit Co* ([1891] 2 Ch 151, 152), where Mr Justice Kekewich said: "I take it that the intention of the rules as to the advertising of winding up petitions is that the petition which is heard shall be advertised—that is to say, that which is advertised and that which is heard shall be substantially the same petition".

The most recent reported authority seemed to be a Practice Note ([1902] WN 77). In it Mr Justice Buckley, whose learning in these matters was preeminent, said: "Where a petition for a compulsory order had been advertised, and at the hearing the petitioner asked for a supervision order only, the petition ought as a general rule to be readadvertised. This appeared to be the practice more recently adopted, the reason for it apparently being that persons who would be satisfied with a compulsory order would not take the trouble to appear if they thought such an order would be made, but might appear and object to a supervision order only being made."

The court was naturally reluctant to expose the petitioner to the delay that readvertisement would

produce; but the question was whether it was right to make a supervision order where the only relief advertised was a winding up order. There were, of course, many differences between winding up by the court and winding up subject to supervision; a glance at Schedule 11 to the Companies Act gave some indication of that. Winding up subject to supervision was essentially a voluntary winding up with a limited degree of additional protection.

There were over 20 creditors with claims of over £40,000 originally listed as supporting a winding up order while 14 with claims of over £75,000 were listed as opposing such an order. However, a statement of affairs as at the end of November showed that there were over 300 creditors with debts totalling nearly £300,000. It was, therefore, plain that there were many creditors with substantial claims in addition to those on the list.

It was said that the greater included the less, and so on a petition for a winding up order the relief of a supervision order might be granted. That, however, was not the point. What mattered was not what appeared to the company but what relief and protection were accorded to the creditors. If they were told that the relief being sought was the relief which would afford them all the greater measure of protection, was it right, without warning to them, to make an order which protected them less? No doubt any of them who felt strongly enough on the matter could, after a supervision order had been made, petition for a compulsory winding up order; but that involved the time and trouble of commencing new proceedings, instead of merely attending the hearing of an existing petition and urging that a particular course of action should be taken. The only fair course was for the creditors generally to be given due warning of the actual order which the petitioner now sought.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell for G. R. Smith & Co., West Bromwich; Beauchamp, Birmingham.

Accused woman said to have boasted of bombs

A girl witness at the M62 coach bomb trial at Wakefield Crown Court, West Yorkshire, yesterday said that Miss Theresa Ward, who is accused of 12 murders, had boasted to her about making bombs.

The girl, referred to only as Wendy, said she shared a caravan with Miss Ward while they were working at Chipperfields Circus, Belle Vue, Manchester. She said she remembered Miss Ward arriving on Saturday, January 26, with a blue-green holdall.

The previous day Miss Ward had told her that she was going to London for her employment and she was carrying a bag. It was her only luggage, he unpacked a few clothes and nicks, and put the holdall under the settee bed in the caravan.

On Monday, January 28, Wendy told Miss Ward that she was turning the holdall to her "other" home in Stockport and was going into Manchester to get a job there, although Wendy believed it was easier to get a bus ticket.

Miss Ward returned later, without the holdall. Before taking it on the caravan, Miss Ward opened a side pocket and took out an envelope, Wendy said. She added: "She took a piece of paper from it, scanned through it, and said 'Oh, that's what it is' and put it back."

In reply to Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the prosecution, Wendy said: "I seem to remember her [Miss Ward] saying something about bombs, about home-made bombs, he said they often made these."

Mr Taylor asked: "Who were they?" Wendy replied: "I do not know. I got the impression to me that 'we' I thought, she was just joking."

Wendy said that Miss Ward once mentioned a boy friend in Ireland who had been killed. "I think she said he had been shot by soldiers." She then told of the morning when Miss Ward arrived atipping Norfoll, the winter quarters of the circus. It was Moody,

February 4, the day of the coach bomb trial. When she left the caravan, Miss Ward was in bed and she was still there on her return. Later she saw Miss Ward leaving in a taxi carrying a white duffel bag. Wendy told Mr Taylor that she herself did not take any explosives into the caravan at any stage.

Miss Ward, aged 25, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, is accused of the murder of the 12 people who died in the coach explosion. She is also accused of causing explosions at the National Defence College, Latimer, Buckinghamshire, at Euston station, London, and on the army coach which was taking soldiers and their families from Manchester to Caterick after weekend leave. She has denied all the charges.

Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, for the defence, asked Wendy if she remembered anything about a rag being put in the neck of a bottle of petrol and if so that the bottle would explode when thrown. The girl said she thought she did.

Mr Rankin referred her to a statement she had made to the police. She agreed that one night in the caravan she and Miss Ward were watching *The Comedians* on television and were laughing at Irish jokes.

One of the jokes was about a bomb and Miss Ward is alleged to have told Wendy that she had made bombs in Ireland. Wendy's statement said that she did not believe her but she asked Miss Ward how she did it. She said Miss Ward told her she placed some kind of substance in a bottle and threw it. The girl agreed that Miss Ward had never claimed to have done anything violent in Northern Ireland or in England.

An application by Mr Rankin for the trial to be adjourned so that the defence solicitor could investigate the history of the caravan in which Miss Ward lived was granted. The court will not sit tomorrow but will resume on Monday.

The hearing continues today.



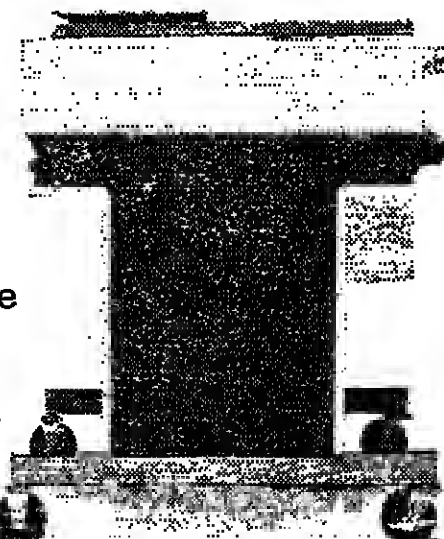
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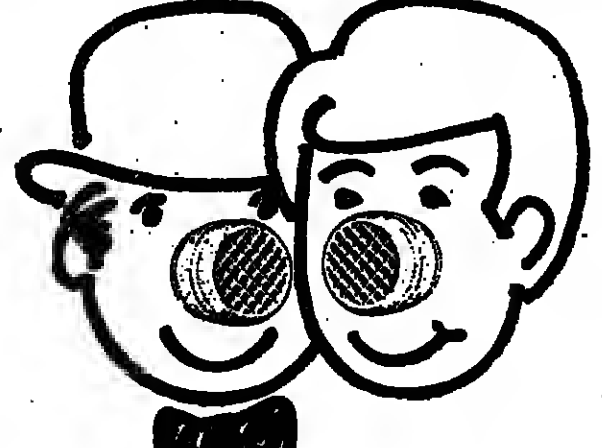
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Equestrianism

Easter Parade comes between the Schockemöhles at Wembley

Taylor slots his game smoothly into place

Golf

Japanese give Marsh honourable mention

The Thornhills and their chance of fame

estherday's results

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when Boyd had a wooden club in his hand. But Miss Everard coaxed him round, playing almost flawlessly herself and hitting a long

Ascot holds the stag for two days

45 BATTLE OF THE STANDARDS
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0 GOTHERINGTON HURDLE

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11-10-0	Mr T. Garlon	7
11-10-0	Mr J. Kerly	7
11-10-0	Mr G. Jones	7

Red Regent and Hilarious can help Eddery consolidate

4.0 ROOKS NEST NURSERY

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3.15 (5.10) **CESAREWITCH TRIA**
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 3-7-7 E. Johnson (10:50) (ave)
 Janelle, ch. by (Chapelle)

ALSO RAN: 9-2 Shieldfield, 5-1
Rance All Night, 7-1 Gold Loom, 10-1
My Story 14th, 11-1 Sally Jane, 35-1
Grey Glow, Sentinel, 10 ran.

Chatham N.H.

Chenham N.H.
 2.0.-1. Quekett, 16-1 : 2. Near
 and Far. 4-1 : 3. Crazy Guy. 7-1.
 3.0.-1. Brambletown. 8-1 : 2.
 Spanish Stone. 12-1 : 3. Wad Dilled.
 9-4 fav. 8 run.
 3.0.-1. Apple D My Eye. 5-1 : 2.
 On El Barron. 13-1 : 3. Charlie
 10-4 fav. 16 run. Power Play
 did not run.
 3.50.-1. Royal Reserve. 7-2 fav.
 2. Lot One. 16-1 : 3. Snappy. 5-1 : 5
 fav. On Windermer did not run.
 4.0.-1. Iceamo. 12-1 : 2. Prime
 Lodge. 9-4 fav 3. Estolia. 7-1. 10 run.
 4.30.-1. Sea Fern. 9-2 fav : 4. El
 10-4 fav. B-1 : 3. Just Because. 15-1.
 18 fav.

BOOKS/TWO

Fiction

In Their Wisdom
By C. P. Snow

The Gaudy
By J. I. M. Stewart

Yes—oh dear yes—the novel tells a story, groaned E. M. Forster, wishing it were not so. Most serious novelists probably share his weariness with the necessity to invent a plot, a vehicle in which to place their characters, or in which to trundle through the landscape of ideas which is the real reason for their writing at all. Some contemporary novelists puncture all tyres, and urge their readers to plod, though C. P. Snow and J. I. M. Stewart, almost exact contemporaries, seem to show some sympathy with the necessity to invent a plot, a vehicle in which to place their characters, or in which to trundle through the landscape of ideas which is the real reason for their writing at all. Some contemporary novelists puncture all tyres, and urge their readers to plod, though C. P. Snow and J. I. M. Stewart, almost exact contemporaries, seem to show some sympathy with the necessity to invent a plot, a vehicle in which to place their characters, or in which to trundle through the landscape of ideas which is the real reason for their writing at all.

character: the plot of *In Their Wisdom* serves well enough to draw the characters together in a pavane; but one's real interest is in the slow layering of character, the disposition of a large cast on-stage (for he is a natural dramatist, though not a playwright). Freedom from the people and settings of the long *Strangers and Brothers* sequence has brought its rewards; these new characters are almost without exception four-square and solid: the mechanizing Stafffield, a rich man with an insatiable appetite for manipulation, is one of Lord Snow's most vivid inventions. The set-pieces are of greater and lesser effectiveness, of course; two at least are brilliantly brought off—a meeting of two elderly, dying peers in stoic confrontation of their fate, and a brain operation. *The Gaudy* has a number of sub-plots rather than a plot: on the one hand, the son of a newly appointed cabinet minister, is suspected of rape; another commits suicide; Patullo meets a former love, now married in an early rival of his. Though in his other personae, as Michael James, J. I. M. Stewart has obviously to be much concerned with plot, in this novel he seems to concentrate on scene-setting and the presentation of a set of characters who will presumably return in subsequent books. These are more obviously theatrical than Lord Snow's—sometimes a little caricatured, finding it difficult to avoid saying a good thing, tending to take up dramatic positions against set-pieces of landscape: The Long Field, the Provost's Luncheon Party, Mr Talbot's Tea. But there is a wonderfully good domestic dialogue, and some good comic scenes. However, there is more to the book than that: the relationships between the generations are a major theme, and particularly well done.

Derek Parker

In brief

Under Wedgery Down, by Ernest Raymond (Cassell, 85p). It would be an ungrateful reader who, after Ernest Raymond's long career, did not come his novel, completed before his death earlier this year at 85. It returns to old themes of religion and agnosticism: a young man in rural England in the 1900s has his simple faith destroyed by a splendidist. Not a theme we can recognize as immediately to our time, and the book lacks the freshness of character which could bring it off. This is a simple tour de force. Its "old story" aspect is underlined by a lack of cerebral sharpness, too: the "nobility" and "saintliness" of the clergy are unsupported by the evidence. But, alas, one is reading

Poetry

len has been dead a year, confronted with his posthumous book *Thank You, Fog* (Faber, £1.75) one wishes that Mr W. H. all poems and his measure of mind? Here are 19 poems on an antismasque. Nothing from the page with those lines which made him such a cry when he was young. Cyberspace there is artificial ochre, consciously unambiguous irony, a setting for that verse where his talent was some. I won't disparage a poet's achievement in the last verse bear a weight of business. There is a sense in which he ended up writing like capers cut in et slipper, winking, artful, estic, made from an antismasque of the limitations of talent, and a moral insistence on the rules of the "me" which is poetry. The poems in *Thank You, Fog* are a relief when seen against the post-fog vistas of his surviving contemporaries, still addicted to language as magic. This is the title piece. This is his return to England (America in 1972) in skilful bits (seven to the line) has come a different kind of York smog and fog in the three countryside at Christ-mas, immuring him with friends in a manor-house. Birds sing a "whose blood is bristling", but mostly he praises the escape of bare trees coming the weather "to deflours", while

couplets: a pepper of exclamation marks tries to do the job of feeling; photographs doctored to make silhouettes on the pages where the poems are printed cannot disguise the book's triviality. Davies' nostalgia has been ill-served by an attempt to try on Benjamin's old shoes with none of Benjamin's panache. Full of descriptions of places that have taken his fancy, Charles Tomlinson's *The Way In* (Oxford, £1.25) shows off a painter's eye—snow is seen as a batter of ash and crystals, pylons in moonlight are "frigid lattices". Such observation is pretty, but this poet is forever trying to wring Deep Meaning from it and his verse splinters into fragments of philosophy. Someone once described Tomlinson as a glum fellow trying to learn how to play the flute. There's little joy in his perceptions. The same goes for Douglas Dunn, but then Dunn has no flautist ambitions, and his *Love or Nothing* (Faber, £1.25) brings together poems in a good, plain voice. I like "The White Poet", which shows there is still stuff to be learnt from Laforgue, and "Ars Poetica", a fantasy about typewriters writing poems on typewriters. We are the Typewriter Muses, were bred.

By W. C. Williams on Patience Strong. Dunn is a witty poet inclined to let wit shape a poem when inspiration dries up. David Black relies more upon fancy. *The Happy Crow* (Lines Editions: Macdonald, Edgely Road, Midlothian, 80p) shows him digging away in his own weird mine of sin and philosophy, often discovering nothing more interesting than a few Zen tags; but it also has a splendid poem ("The Water-Lily") in praise of the riches of the depths of unknowing, a handful of lyrics with an original pulse, and a longish poem called "Mehsine" that is remarkable. Black is Scottish. His absence from *Made in Scotland*, edited by Robert Garrioch (Carcanet, £2.50 & £1.25) is a serious omission in an anthology otherwise notable for good poems by Robin Fulton, Tom Buchan, and Paul Mills. Stewart Conn's *New Poems 1973-74* (Hutchinson, £2), the annual PEN anthology, is more coherent than volumes in this series usually are. Finally, magazines. The anniversary issue of the *Quarterly Review of Literature* is a paperback book (26 Haslett Avenue, Princeton, New Jersey, £2), and testimony to the catholic but perceptive editorial judgement of Professor T. Weiss and his wife over the years since 1943. *Wallpaper* (11 Ascham Street, London, NW5, £1) is an avant-garde newsmagazine, full of sums and teasing stories, worth getting for a set of "Modern Sonnets" by the poet Anthony Howell.

Robert Nye

Shopping around

Sheila Black

● Elegant, understated style is missing from so many of today's clothes. There is little choice between the frankly dull or dowdy and the innovating, exciting designs that energize fashion but frighten off women of all ages. Bernat Klein's catalogue features traditional British good taste invested with a dash of modernity in colour and fabric as well as styling. Timeless and ageless—flattering for most shapes, sizes and complexions—the range includes vibrant or subtle shades for the Scottish tweeds and worsteds for day plus clinging fabrics for hostess gowns. This is mail order in the quality market, with prompt

answers to questions, individual service, and that classic ingredient of the customer always being right. Prices reflect the quality. The versatile cape jacket illustrated here is £38. Well-cut shirts are £12. A cowl-neck evening gown in a romantic print is £25, with high neck and long sleeves for what may well be a hard winter in houses where beating is subject to some economic restrictions. The Klein fabrics are sold by the yard for home dressmakers and you can also order rugs, curtains, bedspreads and table linens. The address is Bernat Klein Design, Waukrigg Mill, Galashiels TD1 1QD, Scotland.



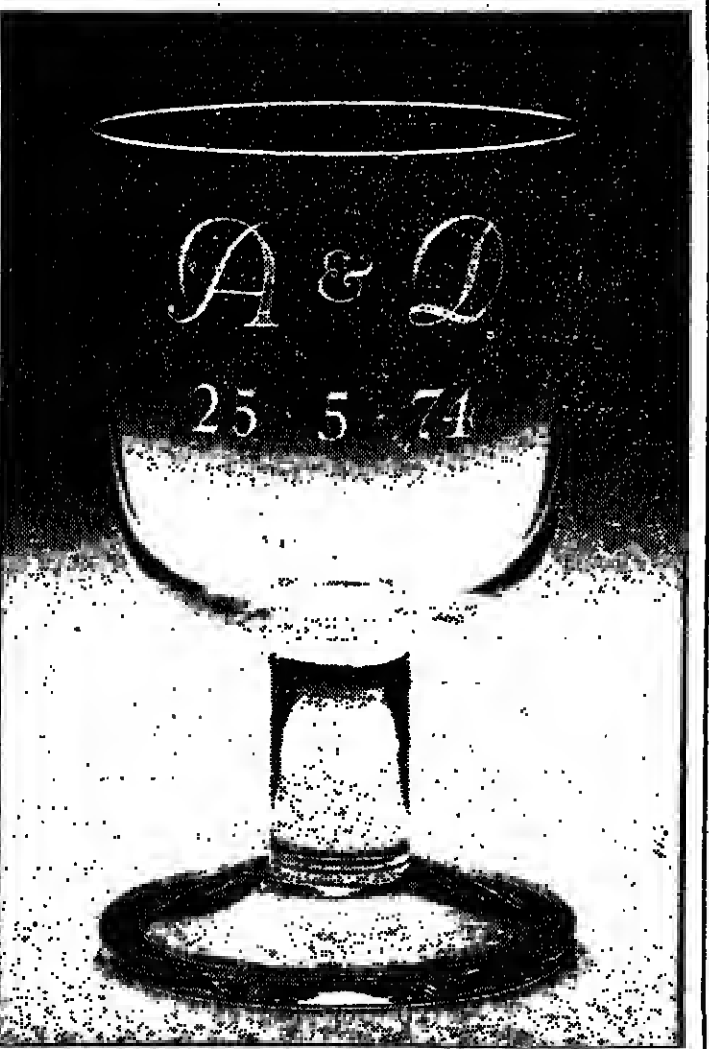
● Thara seems to be some emphasis on boating today, so I recommend old sea charts from Susanna Fisher, an historian who specialized in marine history at Greenwich and who married a sea sailor. Susanna does about three lists of charts a year and her next one should be ready by the beginning of November, so she can start taking names for it now. The list covers a mixture of purely decorative charts—and they are decorative with old lettering and 'taded' colours—at about £5 upwards, ideal for framing; then goes right on through all price levels up to real collectors' charts at £100. Susanna will try to hunt down charts of particular places for people who have a passion for money and she would be helpful with knowledge and advice if investment is the main motivation for buying. The lists are not illustrated but I should think sea charts enthusiasts know how they look. Susanna Fisher is at Spencer, Ugham, Southampton and her telephone number is Dursley, Hants. 281.

● Jack Holt reckons to supply everything for the small boat and its sailor. The range of boating accessories and clothing should help solve Christmas present problems for water enthusiasts. The thick catalogue of 96 pages covers a multitude of prices from ditty bags at 95p to fleeced-lined, waterproof wetsuits at £29. Postage is included when you buy by mail if it is a small element in the total price but postage and/or carriage would obviously be charged on heavy or awkward orders. The catalogue costs 35p from Jack Holt's shop (open for personal shopping too), The Embankment (1.5 mile upstream from Putney Bridge on the south side of the Thames), London, SW15. The telephone number is 01-788 9255. ● The Boy Scouts sell by mail—not only uniforms but a host of useful adjuncts of the camping and outdoor life. There are two mail order catalogues. One is *Uniform, Trophies and Flies* 74 and the other is *Camping and Outdoor Activities* 74. There is also a Book List. All three are free but please be understanding and do not order any you will not want as they cost so much to produce these days. The address is Scout Shops Limited, Churchill Industrial Estate, Lancing BN15 8UG, Sussex.

● If you own a boat and have always longed for an Electrolux electrically-operated, flushing loo, there are 45 of them—formerly demonstration models—being jobbed off at Buyers and Sellers of 120 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (01-229 1947). Originally more than £100, they are now going to anyone who offers over £60 or thereabouts. Also available are non-electric flushing loos (from Electrolux) at £35. In stock now at this shop that sells seconds in domestic appliances are a lot of the smaller Electrolux refrigerators for calor gas at from around £33 according to condition, plus one or two electric models. Stock may have changed by the time you get there, so telephone first. B and S just takes what it can sell at discounts, shoves it all in the shop, with no attempt at display, and you forage.

● About eighteen months ago, I recommended some crystal glasses that could be initialled—they were in three or four shapes and engraved by Dent although sold through Barlow, the firm that does those naméd towels.

Dent is now doing its own thing under the guidance of its Heredities parent and sending out its own leaflets—a new one is ready any day now. It includes a whisky tumbler which works out at £3.45 with one initial. The goblets are Lune and Rawthey, traditional in shape but of different sizes at £6.40 and £5.80, with one initial only. Extra initials at 50p each and Zodiac signs at £1.75 extra. To get priority delivery within about three weeks, add another 95p. A new, fairly squat, rounded goblet of modern shape will be in the new leaflet. Special engraving orders can be undertaken—coat of arms, symbols, badges, emblems, etc. The address is Dent Glass, Risehill Mill, Dent, Sedburgh, West Riding of Yorkshire and personal callers are invited to the studio on Monday to Friday. Do not start comparing the prices with Mulberry Hall's Stuart Crystal, as the sizes and products are not comparable.

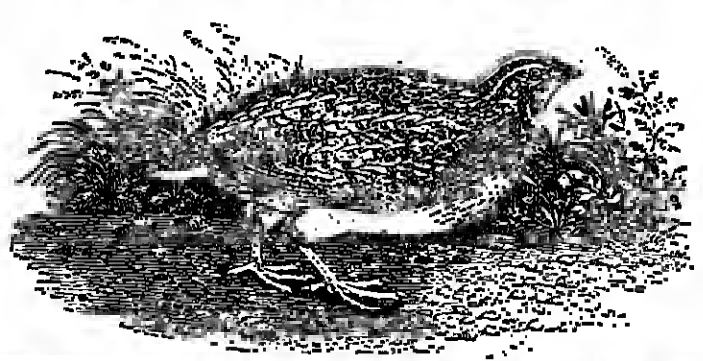


● A diagrammatic book on the maintenance and repair of bicycles should save both tempers and lives. I found it easy to follow and I'm no cyclist. Text and illustrations that cover 25 pages are taken from *The Reader's Digest Repair Manual*, and the book is published by Hodder, Cusston of St. Pauls House, 8/12 Warwick Lane, London EC4. Hodder does not sell direct but retailers can order from them. The book is at many branches of W. H. Smith, some other large newsagents' shops and many bookshops. It costs 50p.

● It may not be massage but a rub-down with the Massage-Glove is stimulating. A toughish plastic glove has stiff nylon bristles on one side which are not as harsh as the bristles of a new nailbrush but not firm enough to make the flesh and skin glow. On the other side is a knurled plastic surface to soothe away local aches. The glove is really exhilarating but not drastic. In green, orange or red, it costs £1.80 plus 20p postage from Mailnet of 5 Penryn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.



● Good ideas are worth repeating; so, having repeated a recommendation of the trickles of delicious cheese from Chewton Farms, I am now returning to the subject of quail. I have been buying from Sprunks Farm because the birds are fresh and not frozen. If you have a freezer you can safely freeze them your-



● For a Londoner, I have a wonderful collection of tools—even gardening tools as part of a "bottom drawer" operation against the time when I shall have a real garden. I have collected them partly because I use many of them, but mostly because I gravitate towards tool-shops and I find myself tempted to buy a good product. Now my vulnerability has been attacked anew by a tool catalogue called *Mate*. It is a very good catalogue with the tools chosen by Ron Hickman, chairman of the company and designer of the new Black and Decker Workmate among other things. The illustrations are excellent, highlighting special features of the tool such as "moulded handles" or "three cutter tools". Portable lighting and running leads or portable power points are there too. Let me make it quite clear that the tools have not been chosen for their cheapness but for their value, quality and performance. That is obvious from the catalogue. The prices of Ron Hickman's chosen pieces are highly competitive, but do not expect the cheapest of everything. There are plenty of low cost items in the catalogue, like steel rules, accessories and the like. The printed prices exclude VAT and postage or carriage are kept realistically low. The catalogue costs you 15p. You keep it and when prices have to be changed, separate price lists are sent free to keep in a pocket inside the back cover. There is a £1 voucher for £15 order. The address is Mate Tools, Brewery Road, Hoddeston, Hertfordshire EN11 8HH. Regular customers get free catalogues, automatically.

● The annual culling of the deer herds in Holker Hall's huge Deer Park has begun. You may wonder why this item of news should concern you. It does if you like venison which, in the hands of good cooks, can be delicious. At Holker Hall, they are now building up a venison list for those who want to buy a whole carcass of red or fallow deer at the reasonable price of 50p a lb. Jointed the price is 53p. But pause before you rush to be listed because the price is so low (venison fillets cost £2.00 lb in London this week). The red and fallow carcasses now are anything between 100lb and 200lb—half a carcass costs 53p per lb. Later this year, there will be carcasses of binds at 100 to 200lb and of fallow does at 60

to 30lb, which is more manageable. Roe bucks, culled all through the year, weigh between 30 and 40lb while Roe does (November to February) are 20 to 30lb.

Friends and neighbours with deep freeze cabinets might join in a venison-baking consortium. At Holker Hall (pronounced Hooker) the carcasses are put into chill at once but not deep frozen, so you get them in good condition for your own freezer. Each customer gets recipes. The snag is, of course, that this is a cash and carry offer, useful only to those who are prepared to drive to Holker Hall, if that includes you, get your name on the venison list by writing to The Estate Office, New Holker Estate Company, Carlin-Carmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

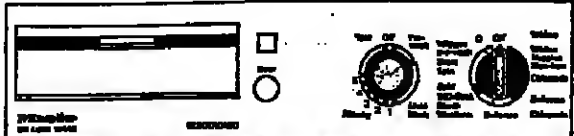
● The Briar Drier (this page last week) inspired a pipe-smoking reader to try drying out his pipe with his Rawplug electric soldering iron. He did and reports that it works well, confirming the Briar Drier claims that dried-out pipes are sweeter and cooler, burn better and become less malodorous (his family and best friends confirmed that). His soldering iron, being used for a multitude of other jobs, makes a cheap pipe drier but the drying operation does make a stench so he suggests doing it out in a workshop or shed. The idea amused me and seemed worth passing on. But, before rushing out for the cheaper soldering iron, do check that the man who will receive it actually wants a soldering iron which is a rather uglier, clumsier thing to have around the home than the compact Briar Drier.

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Results are expected to be declared tonight in the constituencies set out on this page, which should be read in conjunction with the list of nominations published in *The Times* on October 1. Each constituency has the majority for the party winning the seat at the February election.

Constituencies are listed in accordance with the Boundary Commission's report, which groups parliamentary seats in the Greater London area under the name of the London borough concerned, for example, we show Bromley, Ravensbourne, rather than just Ravensbourne. The constituencies concerned are cross-indexed, as well as certain constituencies in other parts of the country like those on Teesside.

The first results are expected to be declared between 11 and 11.30 pm with Cheltenham and Guildford the favourites in the race to be first. Another dozen are expected between 11.30 pm and midnight and over 30 between midnight and 12.30 am Friday.

From then on the pace will be faster. Between 12.30 and 1 am between 60 and 70 declarations are expected; 1 am to 2 am about 100; 2 am to 2.30 am over 90; 2.30 am to 3 am about 30; 3 am to 3.30 am over 20, leaving about 10 results, the last of which is expected between 4.30 am and 5 am.

A record total of 2,350 candidates has been nominated for the election, compared with 2,135 candidates last February. The following table shows the breakdown of the 626 including three Northern Ireland Labour Party contestants: Conservative 622; The Speaker 1; Liberal 619; National Front 90; Scottish National Party 71; Plaid Cymru 36; Communist Party 29; United Ulster Unionist Coalition 12; Workers' Revolutionary Party 10; Social Democratic and Labour Party 9; Alliance Party 5; others in England, Scotland and Wales 108; others in Ulster 14.

The state of the parties after the February election was :	The state of the parties at dissolution was :
<p>1. The state of the parties after the February election was :</p> <p>2. The state of the parties at dissolution was :</p>	<p>1. The state of the parties after the February election was :</p> <p>2. The state of the parties at dissolution was :</p>

Labour	301	Labour	298
Conservative	296	Conservative	296
Liberal	14	Liberal	15
UUUC	11	UUUC	11
Scot National	7	Scot National	7
Pl Cymru	2	Pl Cymru	2
Speaker	1	Speaker	1
Social Dem	1	Social Dem	1
Ind Lab	1	Ind Lab	1
SDLP	1	SDLP	1
		Vacant	2
Total	635	Total	635

The two vacancies at dissolution were caused by the deaths of two Labour MPs—Mr Neil McBride (Swansea, East) and Mr Geoffrey Rhodes (Newcastle upon Tyne, East). In July, Mr Christopher Mayhew, Labour MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East, crossed the floor of the House and joined the Liberal Party. Since February there has been one by-election—at Newbarn South which Labour held.

ABERAVON Lab 20,688	BIRMINGHAM, Small Heath Lab 11,878
ABERDARE Lab 11,832	BIRMINGHAM, Sparkbrook Lab 7,405
ABERDEEN, North Lab 11,856	BIRMINGHAM, Stechford Lab 10,232
ABERDEEN, South C 3,558	BIRMINGHAM, Vardley Lab 1,947
ACCRINGTON Lab 5,032	BLABY C 12,298
ACTON, see Ealing	BLACKBURN Lab 6,300
ALDERSHOT C 10,658	BLACKPOOL, North C 8,154
ALDRIDGE- BROWNHILLS Lab 366	BLACKPOOL, South C 8,091
ALTRINCHAM AND SALE C 8,696	BLUTH Ind Lab 6,140
ANGLESEY Lab 5,754	BOLTON, East Lab 1,613
ANGUS, South C 5,243	BOLTON, West C 603
ARUNDEL C 19,043	BOOTLE Lab 14,935
ASHFIELD Lab 21,788	BOTHWELL Lab 9,601
ASHFORD C 8,453	BOURNEMOUTH, West C 10,818
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE Lab 8,201	BRADFORD, North Lab 6,617
AYTESBURY C 11,183	BRADFORD, South Lab 7,653
AYR C 5,098	BRADFORD, West Lab 2,219
AYRSHIRE, Central Lab 6,277	BRENT, East Lab 7,622
	BRENT, North C 7,941
BAFFNSHIRE C 2,785	BRENT, South Lab 10,624
BARKING, Barkieg Lab 14,634	BRENTFORD and ISLEWORTH, see Hounslow
BARKING, Dagenham Lab 23,490	BRENTWOOD AND DNGAR C 9,093
BARNLEY Lab 24,625	BRIGHOUSE AND SPENBOROUGH Lab 1,546
BARNWELL-IN-PURNESS Lab 5,107	BRIGGTON, Kemplowa C 4,020
BASILDON Lab 10,667	BRIGHTON, Pavilion C 10,618
BASINGSTOKE C 7,797	BRISTOL, North-East Lab & Co-op 6,087
BASSETT Lab 11,234	BRISTOL, North-West C 650
BATH C 5,182	BRISTOL, South Lab 13,167
BATLEY AND MORLEY Lab 7,091	BRISTOL, South-East Lab 7,912
BATTERSEA, North, the Wandsworth	BRISTOL, West C 8,064
BATTERSEA, South the Wandsworth	BRIDMLEY, Beckenham C 10,155
BERTINGHAM AND WILMERE PORT Lab 4,465	BRIDMLEY, Chislehurst C 5,493
BICKENHAM, see Bromley	BRIDMLEY, Orpington C 3,564
BEDFORD C 6,321	BRIDMLEY, Ravensbourne C 8,897
BEDFORDSHIRE, both C 4,758	BROMESGRDVE AND REDHILL C 3,889
BELFAS Lab 2,034	BURNLEY Lab 9,840
BELMONT, see Southwark	BURTON C 3,303
BERRICK AND EAST BOTHAM Lab 540	BURY AND RADCLIFFE C 345
BETHNAL GREEN AND BOW the Tower Hamlets	
BEXLEY, Bexleyheath C 3,866	
BEXLEY, Erith and Crayford Lab 7,081	
BEXLEY, Sidcup C 6,693	
BIRKENHEAD Lab 6,994	
BIRMINGHAM, Birmingham C 5,920	
BIRMINGHAM, Erdington Lab 6,938	CACRNYON Pl Cymru 1,728
BIRMINGHAM, Hall Green C 6,244	CAERPHILLY Lab 12,882
BIRMINGHAM, Handsworth Lab 1,623	CAMBRIDGE C 4,076
BIRMINGHAM, Ladywood Lab 8,962	CAMBRIDGESHIRE C 13,812
BIRMINGHAM, Northfield Lab 6,539	CAMDEN, Hampstead C 2,357
BIRMINGHAM, Perry Bar Lab 2,023	CAMDEN, Holborn St Pancras, South Lab 4,191
BIRMINGHAM, City Oak C 2,832	CAMDEN, St Pancras North Lab 6,835
	CANNOCK Lab 11,064
	CANTERBURY C 17,041

CARDIFF, North C 3,853	ENFIELD, Southgate C 14,454
CARDIFF, North-West C 6,013	EFFING FOREST C 8,167
CARDIFF, South-East Lab 7,146	ERITH and CRAYFORD, see Bexley
CARDIFF, West Lab 3,346	ESSEX, South-East C 9,265
CARDIGAN L 2,476	ETON and SLOUGH Lab 6,891
CARLISLE Lab 4,980	EKEVER C 5,076
CARMARTHEN Lab 3	
CARSBALTON, see Sutton	FAREHAM C 7,877
CHEADLE C 6,224	FARNWORTH Lab 12,637
CHELMSFORD C 6,631	FELTHAM and HESTON, see Hounslow
CHELSEA, see Kensington and Chelsea	FIFE, Central Lab 14,094
CHELTENHAM C 5,912	FIFE, East C 12,579
CHESTER, CITY OF C 6,768	FINCHLEY, see Barnet
CHESTER-LE-STREET Lab 18,726	FLINT, East Lab 8,852
CHESTER C 11,413	FLINT, West C 7,142
CHORNFORD, see Waltham Forest	FULHAM, see Hammersmith
CHIPPENHAM C 3,092	
CHIPPING BARNET, see Barnet	GALLOWAY C 4,008
CHRISTCHURCH and LYMINGTON C 14,624	GATESHEAD, East Lab 15,299
CHELSEA, see Bromley	GATESHEAD, West Lab 8,467
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER, South C 8,427	GILLINGHAM C 5,882
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER, Paddington Lab 872	GLASGOW, Cathcart C 2,095
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER, St Marylebone C 8,717	GLASGOW, Central Lab 5,965
CILITHEROE C 8,528	GLASGOW, Craigton Lab 7,238
COATBRIDGE AND HAIRDRIE Lab 11,783	GLASGOW, Garscadden Lab 11,264
COLCHESTER C 6,862	GLASGOW, Geylang Lab 543
COLNE VALLEY L 719	GLASGOW, Hillhead C 6,381
CONSETT Lab 18,343	GLASGOW, Kelvingrove Lab 2,398
CONWAY C 4,549	GLASGOW, Maryhill Lab 11,393
COVENTRY, North-East Lab 15,427	GLASGOW, Pollok Lab 3,406
COVENTRY, North-West Lab 6,528	GLASGOW, Provan Lab 15,787
COVENTRY, North-East Lab 10,751	GLASGOW, Queen's Park Lab 8,266
COVENTRY, North-West Lab 513	GLASGOW, Shettleston Lab 7,736
CRAWLEY Lab 5,123	GLASGOW, Springburn Lab 10,395
CRAWLEY Lab 15,570	GLOUCESTER C 4,837
CROYDON, Central C 1,314	GLOUCESTERSHIRE, South C 6,459
CROYDON, North-East C 3,820	GOSFORD C 7,228
CROYDON, North-West C 3,071	GOWER Lab 15,076
CROYDON, South Lab 15,867	GRAVESEND Lab 1,582
	GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW Lab 11,776
	GREENWICH, Greenwich Lab 8,870
	GREENWICH, Woolwich East Lab 11,977
	GREENWICH, Woolwich West Lab 2,436
	GRIMSBY Lab 5,671
	GUILDFORD C 9,891
	HACKNEY, Central Lab 12,403
	HACKNEY, North and Stoke Newington Lab 9,334
	HACKNEY, South and Shoreditch Lab 12,018
	HALESOWEN AND STOURBRIDGE C 4,049
	HALFAX Lab 3,003
	HAMILTON Lab 6,278
	HAMMERSMITH, Fulham Lab 3,549
	HAMMERSMITH, North Lab 7,041
	HAMPSTEAD, see Camden
	HARINGEY, Harnsey C 2,208
	HARINGEY, Tottenham Lab 9,126
	HARINGEY, Wood Green Lab 7,544
	HARROGATE C 11,789
	HARLOW Lab 12,534
	HARROW, Central C 2,917
	HARROW, East C 4,493
	HARROW, West C 11,863
	HARTLEPOOL Lab 4,286
	HARWICH C 12,463
	HASTINGS C 7,083
	HAVANT AND WATERLOO C 9,188
	HAVERING, Hornchurch Lab 6,196
	HAVERING, Romford C 3,073
	HAVERING, Upminster C 1,088
	HAYES AND HARLINGTON, see Edlington
	HAZEL GROVE L 1,998
	HEMEL HEMSTEAD C 187
	HENDON NDBTH, see Barnet
	HENDON SOUTH, see Barnet
	HERTFORDSHIRE, South C 3,086
	HEYWOOD AND ROXTON Lab 7,162
	HIGH PEAK C 2,275
	HILLINGDON, Hayes and Harlington Lab 10,048
	HILLINGDON, Ruislip- Northwood

HILLINGDON,
Uxbridge
C 2,415

**BOLTON AND ST
PANCRA'S SOUTH,**
see Camden

BONITON
C 14,123

BORNCASTLE
C 6,789

BORNCHURCH,
see Havering

BORNSEY,
see Barking

**BORSHAM AND
CRAWLEY**
C 6,774

**BOUGHTON-LE-
SPRING**
Lab 23,963

BDUNSWLOW,
Brentford and
Isleworth
C 726

BOUNSLOW, Feltham
and Heston
Lab 8,055

BOVE
C 11,509

BUDDERSFIELD,
East
Lab 7,304

BUDDERSFIELD,
West
Lab 630

BUYTON
Lab 15,305

ILFORD, NORTH,
see Redbridge

ILFORD, SOUTH,
see Redbridge

ILKESTON
Lab 14,180

INCE
Lab 22,759

IPSWICH
C 259

ISLE OF WIGHT
L 7,766

ISLINGTON, Central
Lab 8,691

ISLINGTON, North
Lab 6,628

ISLINGTON, South
and Finsbury
Lab 8,591

JARRDW
Lab 13,892

KEIGHLEY
Lab 878

KIDDERMINSTER
C 8,685

KILMARNOCK
Lab 8,727

**KINGSTON UPON
HULL, Central**
Lab 7,619

**KINGSTON UPON
HULL, East**
Lab 23,593

**KINGSTON UPON
HULL, West**
Lab 7,931

**KINGSTON UPON
THAMES**
Kingston Upon Thames
C 10,307

**KINGSTON UPON
THAMES, Surbiton**
C 6,500

KINGSWOOD
Lab 1,641

KIRKCALDY
Lab 9,382

KNUTSFORD
C 11,050

LAMBETH, Central
Lab 7,369

LAMBETH, Norwood
Lab 4,022

LAMBETH, Streatham
C 4,475

LAMBETH, Vauxhall
Lab 8,641

LANARK
Lab 2,100

LANARKSHIRE,
North
Lab 6,784

LANCASTER
C 2,469

LEEDS, East
Lab 10,514

LEEDS, North-East
C 7,260

LEEDS, North-West
C 6,671

LEEDS, South
Lab 11,860

LEEDS, South-East
Lab 4,454

LEEDS, West
Lab 3,985

LEEK
C 5,732

LEICESTER, East
Lab 1,413

LEICESTER, South
C 1,766

LEICESTER, West
Lab 8,652

LEIGH
Lab 13,647

LEOMINSTER
C 1,619

LEWISHAM,
Deptford
Lab 11,629

LEWISHAM, East
Lab 6,306

LEWISHAM, West
Lab 2,402

LEYTON,
see Waltham Forest

**LICHFIELD and
TAMWORTH**
C 1,807

LINCOLN
Soc Dem 1,293

LIVERPOOL,
Edge Hill
Lab 5,750

LIVERPOOL, Garston
Lab 681

LIVERPOOL, Kirkdale
Lab 6,525

LIVERPOOL,
Scotton Exchange
Lab 12,332

LIVERPOOL, Toxteth
Lab 5,557

LIVERPOOL, Walton
Lab 8,216

LIVERPOOL,
Wavertree
C 5,475

LIVERPOOL,
West Derby
Lab 9,973

LLANELLI
Lab 21,445

LOUGHBOROUGH
Lab 697

LOWESTOFT
C 3,604

LUTON, East
Lab 1,425

LUTON, West
Lab 5,042

MACCLESFIELD
C 14,286

MAIDSTONE

MANCHESTER,
Ardwick
Lab 4,395

MANCHESTER,
Blackley
Lab 5,506

MANCHESTER,
Central
Lab 10,004

MANCHESTER,
Gorton
Lab 8,975

MANCHESTER,
Moss Side
Lab 2,392

MANCHESTER,
Openshaw
Lab 7,457

MANCHESTER,
Withington
C 4,413

MANCHESTER,
Wythenshawe
Lab 12,438

MANSFIELD
Lab 16,142

MELTON
C 12,719

MERIDEN
Lab 4,485

MERIONETH
Pl Cymru 588

MERTHYR TYDFIL
Lab 13,150

MERTON, Mitcham
and Morden
Lab 3,225

MERTON, Wimbledon
C 12,213

MIDDLESBROUGH,
Teesside

**MIDDLETON AND
PRESTWICK**
Lab 517

MIDDLETONIAN
Lab 11,742

**MITCHAM AND
MORDEN,** see Merton

MDRPETH
Lab 13,034

**MOTHERWELL AND
WISHAW**
Lab 6,313

NEATH
Lab 16,593

NEILSON AND COLLY
C 177

NEWARK
Lab 4,497

NEWBURY
C 1,201

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-
LYME**
Lab 5,648

**NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, Central**
Lab 8,002

**NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, East**
Lab & Co-op 6,092

**NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, North**
C 2,980

**NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE, West**
Lab 11,296

NEW FOREST
C 11,382

NEWHAM, North-East
Lab 13,131

NEWHAM, North-West
Lab 12,548

NEWHAM, South
Lab 18,593 May (by
election) Lab 7,453

NEWPORT
Lab 11,382

NEWTON
Lab 14,770

NORFOLK, North
West
C 803

NORMANTON
Lab 15,174

NORTHAMPTON,
North
Lab 1,033

NORTHAMPTON,
South
C 179

NORTH FYLDE
C 19,658

NORTHWICH
C 6,293

NORWICH, North
Lab 7,294

NDRWICH, South
Lab 652

NORWOOD, see
Lambeth

NOTTINGHAM, East
Lab 3,978

NOTTINGHAM, North
Lab 4,445

NOTTINGHAM, West
Lab 5,797

NUNEATON
Lab 17,493

OGMORE
Lab 17,553

OLDHAM, East
Lab 6,302

OLDHAM, West
Lab 6,305

OLDHAM, see
Barnsley

ORPINGTON, see
Barnsley

OXFORD
C 821

PAISLEY
Lab 8,897

PADDINGTON, see
Cluses of London and
Westminster

PECKHAM, see
Southwark

PENMBROKE
C 1,479

PENISTONE
Lab 13,713

**PERTH AND EAST
PERTSHIRE**
C 8,975

PETERBOROUGH
C 22

PLYMOUTH, Devonport
Lab 4,511

PLYMOUTH, Drake
C 257

PLYMOUTH, Sutton
C 8,104

**PONTEFRAC AND
CASTLEFORD**
Lab 23,804

PONTPOOL
Lab 17,465

PONTFRIDD
Lab 16,622

POOLE
C 10,058

PORTSMOUTH, North
Lab 320

PORTSMOUTH, South
C 10,982

PRESTON, North
Lab 255

PRESTON, South
Lab 1,887

PUDSEY
C 3,735

PUNEY, see
Wandsworth

READING, North
C 2,339

READING, South
C 2,439

REDBRIDGE, Ilford.
North
C 285

REDBRIDGE, Ilford,
South
Lab 1,143

REDBRIDGE, Wanstead
and Woodford
C 11,901

REDCAR, see Teesside

REIGATE
C 14,069

RENFREWSHIRE,
East
C 15,486

RENFREWSHIRE,
West
Lab 2,568

RHONDDA
Lab 30,141

RICHMOND UPON
THAMES, Richmond
C 3,827

RICHMOND UPON
THAMES, Twickenham
C 11,593

ROCHDALE
L 8,899

ROCHESTER AND
CHATHAM
C 843

RODAFORD, see
Haverling

ROSSENDALE
C 757

ROTHERHAM
Lab 16,734

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE
WELLS
C 11,028

RUGBY
Lab 6,154

RUSSELL-Northwood,
see Guildford

RUNCORN
C 7,268

RUSSELL-
C 17,709

RUTHERGLEN
Lab 4,153

ST ALBANS
C 8,421

ST MARYLEBONE,
see Cities of London
and Westminster

ST PANCRAS, North,
see Camden

SALFORD, East
Lab 6,931

SALFORD, West
Lab 6,462

SALESBURY
C 5,217

SCARBOROUGH
C 5,107

SEVENOAKS
C 13,713

SHEFFIELD,
Attercliffe
Lab 21,176

SHEFFIELD,
Brightside
Lab 20,567

SHEFFIELD,
Hallam
C 12,913

SHEFFIELD,
Heeley
Lab 6,585

SHEFFIELD,
Hillsborough
Lab 11,260

SHEFFIELD, Park
Lab 22,677

SHIPLEY
C 4,155

SHOREHAM
C 9,758

SHREWSBURY
C 6,131

SIDCUP, see Bexley

SOLIHULL
C 17,363

SOMERSET, North
C 12,155

SOUTHALL, see Ealing

SOUTHAMPTON,
Itchen
Lab 5,590

SOUTHAMPTON,
Test
C 1,403

SOUTHEND, East
C 4,952

SOUTHEND, West
C 5,155

SOUTH FYLDE
C 25,379

SOUTHCATE, see
Enfield

SOUTHPORT
C 3,882

SOUTH SHIELDS
Lab 11,986

SOUTHWARK,
Barnes
Lab 18,721

SOUTHWARK,
Dulwich
Lab 5,341

SOUTHWARK,
Peckham
Lab 18,071

SOVERBY
Lab 115

SPELTHORNE
C 8,059

STAFFORD AND
STONE
C 8,383

STALYBRIDGE and
HYDE
Lab 8,068

STEPNEY and POPLAR,
see Tower Hamlets

STIRLING, FALKIRK
and GLASGOW
Lab 3,849

STIRLINGSHIRE,
West
Lab 4,844

STOCKPORT, North
Lab 203

STOCKPORT, South
Lab 3,088

STOCKTON, see
Teesside

STOKE-ON-TRENT,
Central
Lab 11,748

STOKE-ON-TRENT,
North
Lab 12,459

STOKE-ON-TRENT,
South
Lab 15,669

STREATHAM, see
Lambeth

STRETFORD
C 7,989

STROUD
C 8,471

SUNDERLAND,
North
Lab 11,400

SUNDERLAND,
South
Lab 8,596

SURBITON, see
Kingston upon Thames

SURREY, East
C 8,019

SURREY, North West
C 14,949

BUTTON, Corralton
C 5,690

SUTTON, Sutton and
Cheams
C 1,712

SUTTON COLDFIELD
C 13,435

SWANSEA, East
Lab 19,587

SWANSEA, West
Lab 3,335

SWINDON
Lab 8,709

TEESSIDE,
Middlesbrough
Lab 13,409

TEESSIDE, Redcar
Lab 9,254

TEESSIDE, Stockton
Lab 12,171

TEESSIDE, Thorsby
Lab & Co-op 1,718

THANET, East
C 6,597

THANET, West
C 7,660

THORNABY, see
Teesside

THURROCK
Lab 18,518

TONEBRIDGE AND
NAILING
C 10,108

TOOTING, see
Wandsworth

TORBAY
C 12,408

TOTNES
C 9,643

TOTTENHAM, see
Haringey

TOWER HAMLETS,
Bethnal Green and
Bow
Lab 14,534

TOWER HAMLETS,
Stepney and Poplar
Lab 23,330

TWICKENHAM, see
Richmond upon Thames

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
see Rural Tunbridge
Wells

TYNE-MOUTH
C 6,387

UPMINSTER, see
Haverlog

UXBRIDGE, see
Hillingdon

VAUXHALL, see
Lambeth

WAKEFIELD
Lab 11,418

WALLASEY
C 2,792

WALSALL, North
Lab & Co-op 14,704

WALSALL, South
Lab 1,580

WALTHAM FOREST,
Chingford
C 5,483

WALTHAM FOREST,
Heywood
Lab 9,937

WALTHAM FOREST,
Valencestown
Lab 8,774

WANDSWORTH,
Lattemares, North
Lab 10,423

WANDSWORTH,
Lattemares, South
Lab 1,653

WANDSWORTH, Putney
Lab 1,439

WANDSWORTH,
Tooting
Lab 6,108

WANSTEAD, see
Edridge

WARLEY, East
Lab 7,571

WARLEY, West
Lab 14,624

WARRINGTON
Lab & Co-op 11,106

WARWICK AND
HEAMINGTON
C 11,593

WATFORD
Lab 2,785

WELLINGBOROUGH
C 2,270

WELLS
C 7,785

WELWYN AND
WATFELD
C 1,415

WEST BROMWICH,
East
Lab 5,209

WEST BROMWICH,
West
Lab 13,431

WESTBURY
C 8,419

WESTHOUGHTON
Lab 12,665

WEST LOTHIAN
Lab 6,422

WESTON-SUPER-
MARE
Lab 13,501

WITBEAVEN
Lab 7,383

WIDNES
Lab 16,499

WIGGAN
Lab 18,202

WIMBLEDON, see
Acton

WINCHESTER
C 10,304

WIRRAL
Walker 15,847

WILKING
C 7,583

WILKINGHAM
C 10,432

WILVERHAMPTON,
North-East
Lab 12,617

WILVERHAMPTON,
South-East
Lab 10,905

WILVERHAMPTON,
North-West
Lab 10,901

WOOD GREEN, see
Encey

WOLWICK, East, see
Newcastle

WOLWICK, West, see
Newcastle

WORCESTER
C 14,677

WORKINGTON
C 7,770

WORTHING
C 10,930

WULFSTON, THE
C 6,521

WYBBAM
C 13,083

WYCOMBE
C 10,699

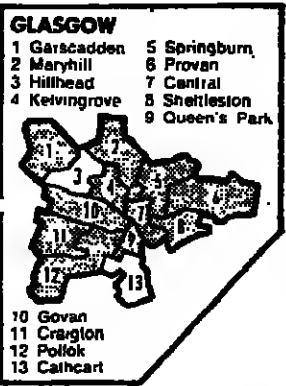
WYLL
C 10,699

Where the parties had support in February

SCOTTISH BURGHES

30 SEATS
The number before each name shows its position on the map

- 1 Aberdeen
- 7 Coatbridge & Airdrie
- 2 Dundee
- 5 Edinburgh
- 10 Glasgow
- 8 Greenock & Port Glasgow
- 3 Kirkcaldy
- 4 Motherwell & Wishaw
- 9 Paisley
- 8 Stirling, Falkirk & Grangemouth



WELSH BOROUGHS

- 10 SEATS
- 128 Aberdare
 - 130 Cardiff
 - 127 Merthyr Tydfil
 - 126 Newport
 - 129 Rhondda
 - 131 Swansea

NORTHERN IRELAND BOROUGHS

- 4 SEATS
- 11 Belfast

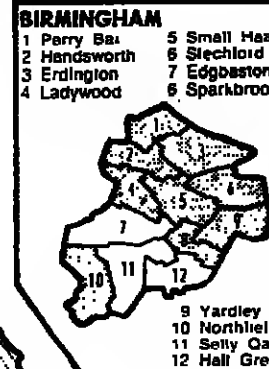
LONDON BOROUGHS

- 92 SEATS
-

ENGLISH BOROUGH CONSTITUENCIES OUTSIDE LONDON

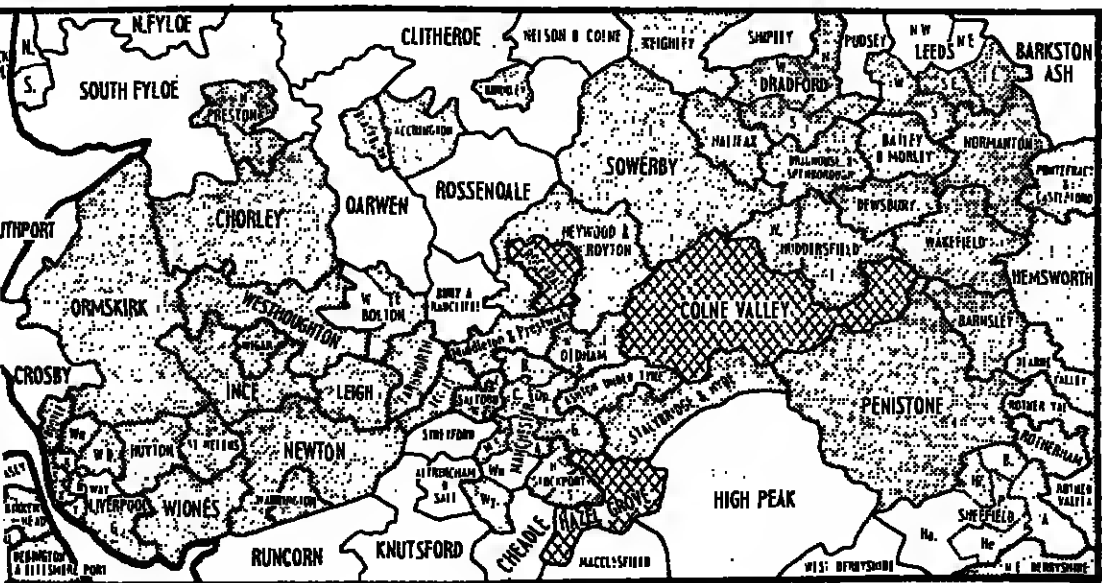
212 SEATS
The number before each name shows its position on the map

- 29 Accrington
- 85 Aldridge & Brownhills
- 53 Altrincham & Sale
- 39 Ashton-under-Lyne
- 64 Barnsley
- 25 Barrow-in-Furness
- Basildon
- 106 Bath
- 61 Batley & Morley
- 52 Bebbington & Ellesmere Port
- 51 Birkenhead
- 90 Birmingham
- 28 Blackburn
- 26 Blackpool
- Blaydon
- 12 Blyth
- 35 Bolton
- 48 Bootle
- 122 Bournemouth
- 55 Bradford
- 58 Brighouse & Spenborough
- 120 Brighton
- 105 Bristol
- 30 Burnley
- 36 Bury & Radcliffe
- 95 Cambridge
- 16 Carlisle
- 103 Cheltenham
- 111 Chertsey & Walton
- 74 Chesterfield
- 112 Christchurch & Lymington
- 91 Coventry
- 47 Crosby
- 23 Darlington
- 76 Derby
- 82 Dewsbury
- 69 Doncaster
- 83 Dudley
- 42 Eccles
- Epsom & Ewell
- Esher
- 99 Eton & Slough
- 108 Exeter
- 124 Fareham
- Farnworth
- 17 Gateshead
- 117 Gillingham
- 104 Gloucester
- 113 Gosport
- 72 Grimsby
- 86 Halesowen & Stourbridge
- 57 Halifax
- 21 Hartlepool
- 118 Hastings
- 114 Havant & Waterloo
- Hazel Grove
- 119 Hove
- 63 Huddersfield
- Ince
- 96 Ipswich
- 19 Jarrow
- 56 Keighley
- 70 Kingston-upon-Hull
- 60 Leeds
- 92 Leicester
- 44 Leigh
- 73 Lincoln
- 50 Liverpool
- 97 Luton
- 40 Manchester
- Middleton & Prestwich
- Nelson & Colne
- 78 Newcastle-under-Lyme
- 15 Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- 93 Northampton
- 94 Norwich
- 75 Nottingham
- Nuneaton
- 38 Oldham
- 100 Oxford
- Peterborough
- 110 Plymouth
- 68 Pontefract & Castleford
- 107 Poole
- 125 Portsmouth
- 27 Preston
- 59 Pudsey
- 101 Reading North
- Reigate
- 37 Rochdale
- 116 Rochester & Chatham
- 32 Rossendale
- 66 Rotherham
- 46 St Helens
- 41 Salford
- 65 Sheffield
- Solihull
- 123 Southampton
- 115 Southend-on-Sea
- 33 Southport
- 18 South Shields
- Spelthorne
- 54 Stockport
- 77 Stoke-on-Trent
- 43 Stretford
- 20 Sunderland
- 89 Sutton Coldfield
- 102 Swindon
- Teesside
- Thanet
- Thurrock
- 109 Torbay
- 14 Tynemouth
- 67 Wakefield
- 49 Wallasey
- 13 Wallsend
- 81 Walsall
- 84 Warley
- 45 Warrington
- 98 Watford
- 82 West Bromwich
- 34 Wigan
- 80 Wolverhampton
- 88 Worcester
- 121 Worthing
- 71 York



Abbreviations in Sheffield
B—Brightside
A—Attercliffe
H—Hillsborough
P—Park
Ja—Hillam
H—Heeley
Abbreviations in Manchester
B—Blackley
O—Oldham
C—Central
L—Lancashire
J—Junction
A.S.—Moss Side
W.—Widening
M.—Mossburn
Abbreviations in Liverpool
W.—Walton
V.D.—West Derby
K—Kirkdale
L.E.—Lancashire Exchange
H.—Edge Hill
W.—Wavertree
T.—Toxteth
L.—Lancashire

LANCASHIRE AND SW YORKSHIRE



LONDON BOROUGHS



Abbreviations in S Lancashire
& SW Yorkshire
D.V.—Deane Valley
F.A.—Farnworth
H & R.—Hawthorn & Royton
M & P.—Middleton & Prestwich
NORM.—Normanton
S & H.—Salford & Hyde

Abbreviations in W. London area
A.—Abchurch
B.—Barnet
E.—Epping Forest
H & S.—Hertford & Stevenage
R.S.—Reading South
S.E.—South East Essex
S.W.—South West Hertfordshire
W. & H.—Weymouth & Hatfield

- Labour
- Conservative
- Liberal
- Scottish National
- Plaid Cymru
- Independent Labour
- United Ulster Unionist
- Parliamentary Coalition
- Social Democratic and Labour Party
- Campaign for Social Democracy

Ronald Butt

Campaign styles that illuminate the choice

I do not recall a previous election campaign in which the style and substance have been so closely related to each other as they have been in this one. Indeed, in a real sense, the style has been the substance, and what the manner of the rival campaigns has revealed about the nature of the choice before the nation could be the determining influence over the result.

As the outset of the campaign, the weight of advantage seemed to be decisively if not overwhelmingly with Labour. An electorate which had refused to support Mr Heath against the unions' determination to break his anti-inflationary defences in February seemed hardly likely to turn back to a Conservative Party whose policy had allowed this dangerous conflict to arise.

The polls all indicated Mr Heath's lack of popularity and the Labour Party had the social contract with the unions which alone seemed to promise some hope of industrial peace. So inevitably the campaign began with Labour exuding an aggressive self-confidence while Mr Heath and his colleagues seemed to be giving hostages to fortune in two ways. First, Mr Heath was already openly and repeatedly talking about coalition and the invitation he would repeat to Mr Thorpe.

Many Conservatives found this distasteful since it might seem to encourage wavering to vote Liberal in seats where this would only damage the Tories. Secondly, the Conservatives, after Mrs Thatcher's mortgage pledge, seemed to be open to the accusation that they were bringing the election to a manner ill-fitting the gravity of the nation's economic plight.

Yet it was at this moment that Labour's real potential weakness became obvious as Ministers allowed their self-confidence to spill over into an often ill-mannered and ill-tempered aggressiveness which seemed almost to indicate a collective personality flaw.

Mr Crosland diminished himself by accusing Mrs Thatcher of a "pack of lies" (which obviously was not) and in calling her mortgage plans bribery; Labour ministers seemed to forget that protection for householders who are increasingly worried about being able to cope with rising interest rates could be as much a part of a national contract as Labour's concessions to the unions. And why should the one be more a bribe than the other?

Mr Healey, too, was quick to accuse the Conservatives of lies, even when he himself was naming a low inflation rate which was plainly misleading and Labour's campaign gradually became more arrogant.

Mr Wilson insisted that the social contract was everything; that it could not fail; that there was nothing else—therefore that questions about what would happen if it did fail were not admissible. In taking this position, he was adopting a position not unlike that of the Conservatives last February when it was put to the nation that the statutory wages policy was essential for national survival.

In contrast, Mr Heath's quiet insistence on analysing the gravity of the situation and on expressing the view that no one party—not even his own—could solve the problem by itself alone, seemed much more realistic. His willingness to talk to all the political leaders has been in stark contrast to Mr Wilson's insistence on one-party

government which was hardly more convincing by the argument that the one party is itself a "coalition". For Labour's dependence on the unions—sense that the whole point of electing Labour is to recognize and pay obedience to their power—has become steadily more apparent as the campaign progressed.

As the campaign progressed, it became more and more obvious that Mr Wilson and his colleagues have taken their stand on the position: "L'état c'est nous". Without them, they seem to say, there is no hope because they and only they represent the real power in the land—the unions, about whose intentions it is even sacrilegious to ask questions. It will be recalled that a couple of reigns after that concept of government was voiced in Old France, there came the deluge.

Labour's unconcealed dependence on union power may, of course, bring it victory today because the nation has decided that it lacks the will to strike an independent course. Nevertheless, Mr Heath's quiet campaign has seemed to lead to the only one that he could have waged and one which will leave him with his political integrity untarnished whatever happens.

I have far from always agreed with Mr Heath's handling of politics and last February it seemed to me a recipe for disaster to stake everything on a statute that could not be defended if any key group of workers chose to resist it. This time, however, I have increasingly admired the honesty and dignity of his campaign in insisting that there is no one single answer and that no one party ought to claim to have one.

We have seen a reversal of roles since last February. Then the nation rejected Mr Heath's single answer because the nation cannot afford ever to say there is only one answer, or else chaos. Will it now accept Mr Wilson's single answer which has been increasingly revealed as both empty and truculent? Or will it take the view that the very insistence on single-party rule by Mr Wilson, when that party is more than ever dependent on a single interest in the state, is fundamentally divisive?

Will it respond to the hectoring manner of Labour's campaign, with its insistence that if the nation knows what's good for it, it had better vote for the place where the big battalions are? Or will it be repelled by the Labour preference for a single party which is why Mr Wilson dares not let it even be thought that he would talk to Mr Heath over national unity? Will it pay the social price that the Labour left is demanding as a condition for an interpretation of politics which ominously divides what Mr Wilson calls the "useful" people from the rest?

It is possible even now that the electorate may see in the humble and quieter manner of the Conservative campaign a way towards a broader approach to politics, so that the authority Mr Wilson seeks is withheld from him. But even if the electorate decides today to bow to the facts of power which Labour seems to represent, it will not at all diminish the importance for the nation of the case which Mr Heath has been arguing.

A guide to key constituencies

Notwithstanding the big increase in votes for third party candidates in February, control of government will once again be determined in the 82 seats where the margin of victory was less than 5 per cent last time.

Seats that must change hands if either major party is to win an overall majority in the next Parliament are listed in the table below.

To keep track of the progress of the parties, circle in red each seat that Labour holds or gains, and circle in blue each seat held or gained by the Conservatives. Unless you have a large repertoire of coloured pencils, a third colour must suffice for victories by any of the third party parties.

Marking crucial seats as the results are declared should provide a better guide to the election result than looking for a magic number in a swing table. Calculations of swing have been badly upset by the rise in votes for the Liberal

Labour majority
In order to have an overall majority in the next Parliament, Labour must win some of the 21 seats where it is less than 5.0 per cent behind the leader, as well as sweeping its "Must" column.

Upminster	1.9
Southampton Test	2.4
Bosworth	2.7
Lichfield & Tamworth	2.5
Croydon Central	2.5
Welwyn & Hatfield	2.5
Pembroke	2.5
Marioneth (PC held)	2.6
Lincoln (Tory held)	3.1
Brentford & Islington	3.2
Leicester South	3.2
Acton	3.4
Braintree	3.7
Beeston	4.1
Walsley	4.5
Reading North	4.7
Buckingham	4.7
Uxbridge	4.9
Cromer & Redditch	4.9
Caernarvon (PC held)	4.9

Conservatives must gain
If the Conservatives take all 21 of the seats listed below, they will be the largest in the next House of Commons. But it

Liberals closest second
For the Liberals to do anything better than make isolated individual gains, the party must take the bulk of the 18 seats below where it was within 10.0 per cent of the winner last time. (Seats Conservative held unless otherwise noted)

Newbury	2.1
Sutton & Cheam	3.5
Aberdeenshire West	3.7
Truro	4.4
Leominster	4.6
Leipon	4.7
Chippenham	5.6
Chippenham	6.0
Pudsey	6.8

Plaid Cymru
The two seats held by the Plaid (Merioneth and Caernarvon) are both marginal seats for Labour.

Merioneth	4.7
Caernarvon	4.9

Scottish Nationalists
The abnormally high swings by which the SNP won seats in February makes it difficult to adopt a specific criterion of marginality. The following list names the 10 seats in which the SNP candidate, whether second or third, came within 16.0 per cent of the winner.

(Winner's name in brackets)

Glasgow Govan (Lab)	2.3
Stirling, Falkirk & Grange (Lab)	7.3
West Lothian (Lab)	10.4

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Reginald Maudling

There is no point in voting for a quiet life

My Dear Uncle Ernst.

I said I would write to you again at the end of the campaign with my latest impressions. When you read this letter we should all be going to the polls, and the result should be known. There are too many people doing that already, either as professional pollsters or committed politicians. I must say, I do not understand all this passion for constant prediction. I thought we had seen the end of it when I had got a right idea of what it was all about. I do not think I shall be doing that again, certainly if integrity, effort and determination count, he deserves to. But the polls have gone on, and the BBC, who claim to have spent large amounts of money on a computer which will predict the results accurately within half an hour of the polls closing. If they are right, which I doubt, presumably the viewers can all close down at 10.30 pm, leaving the great assembly of pundits and politicians to bedazzle themselves.

I must confess it has been a pretty depressing campaign. The weather has been awful, with the rain falling heavier than the showers of lead. And I think without doubt people are wearied at a second election within such a short time. After all, the problems and the solutions cannot have changed all that much since February, except in the ordinary man's problems seem to have got worse and the solutions less convincing. Do you remember Csermen Jones?

"If you want to light a fire where a fire was before, The coal you use must be new coal."

No doubt there are good reasons for it, but the fact is there has been precious little new coal around. What I have found different this time has been the number of people who are frankly bewildered by claim, counterclaim, argument, and counterargument. Of course there always are voters who feel this way, but I am sure there are more this time than usual. Mind you, who can blame them? Hegel said that "philosophy progresses not by finding the answers but by progressively clarifying the questions". (Or if it wasn't Hegel, it was that great philosopher, Mr. A. J. Ayer, who said that "philosophy progresses not by finding the answers but by progressively clarifying the questions".)

I sometimes ponder on the relation between politics and philosophy. The trouble is that logical argument produces fewer headlines than aggressive statements, and counterstatements. While it is economics that eases, and rightly earns, the title of the dreary science (look at any of the election broadcasts on economics), one has to accept with Csermen Jones that the Owl of Minerva spreads her wings only with the approach of twilight. Alas, the day of Plato's philosopher kings, or even philosopher politicians seems as far away as ever.

But perhaps there is more in the analogy between politicians and philosophers. The trouble is that politics was closely linked to the British attitude to sport. There has always been a cupie atmosphere about an election campaign, the same heart warming loyalty, the same unwillingness to accept merit in one's opponents. Is it perhaps only a coincidence that the prestige and authority of Parliament and the prestige and conduct of British soccer are falling at the same time, and if there is more to it than a coincidence, is it not true that in either case it is the performance on the field that influences the performance of the spectators?

61 prefer Labour's projected mild down-turn to the Tories full-scale disaster...

Sniff sniff
As you go to the polls, balance your election fever with the reflection that the sixth annual convention of the Chinese Sniff Society of America, Inc. is being held in London this week. It is being attended by about 100 delegates, most of them American and some Chinese. Chinese sniff bottles are an addition. You suffer a state of autism—the inability to relate to reality. You live in the past among old bottles. There was something peculiarly tactile about Chinese sniff bottles. "I love them, I love them, I love them," they say. "It is a dwindling market. The Chinese do not make sniff bottles any more."

Meadowland
In the Meadowland election, the three main party leaders have sent their eye-of-poll messages to voters:
Big Bunny: Remember February. Remember myxomatosis. Remember what Shirley has done for you. Remember and remember the hole the squirrels got us into.
Squirrel Ted: Our slogan is National Unity—Tomorrow's Salvation. NUTS to you.
Hedgehog Jeremy: We have a perfect solution to the energy and every other crisis. I refer to our plan for all creatures to

Not that it is quite the same thing. Of course Harold Wilson and Brian Clough are not likely to change places, though it might have been amusing if they had for a short time. Behaviour on the field is different. Politicians do not openly embrace one another in success (think of Cyril Smith and Jeremy Thorpe), and though many referees blow many whistles, no one is actually sent off. How else could Denis Healey have survived after his gross infringement about the 8.4 per cent rate of inflation?

Then there have been a number of own goals scored this time. Tony Crosland scored one or two in the mortgage field. Keith Joseph, I am sorry to say, scored the same. Why did he decide to produce his monetary arguments just before the election? They were a gift to Harold Wilson, particularly when Keith was unable to show how his monetary policies could help to solve the immediate problem of inflation without aggravating the immediate problem of unemployment. It is strange how many people neglect the basic principle of electioneering, that even your most enthusiastic supporter cannot vote for you twice over. And then there was Kenneth Powell, the greatest own goal scorer of them all.

And so the campaign has proceeded, wet, a little dreary, and certainly adding more confusion than enlightenment. We have had our moments of humour, particularly from the Liberal Party (though I must say I could have done without the sight of Cyril Smith licking a stick of rock to mummify that it was almost big enough to fit him). We have had the Continuing Story of Jeremy and the Magic (American) Helicopter.

So far as our relations with the EEC are concerned, I doubt if how much harm had been done, know how much importance you and our friend, Joseph Luns, have always attached to British membership of the Community. I do not think the will be shaken whatever the result of the election. Then there was a rumour, I am sure, when Mr Wilson paraded EEC figures, supplied to them by Whitehall, as an independent reference for his economic arguments. I must say, I have heard of people before now writing their own references, but I have normally been for rather more mental rack in the Prime Minister, and in any case, I thought it was a practice rather to be deplored. But no harm appears to have been done. If the Conservatives win there is no problem. If the Labour Party wins, there will be troubles, but not a national crisis. Britain's fate is settled by events not by politicians in these matters.

But the real issue has been as I said to you in my previous letter, the issue of inflation, unemployment, the issue of whether people should employ their monopoly power to demand what they require for themselves, under the thumb of a disappointed party, or bring a halt to the life of the community. This was the problem in February, this is the problem now. It has to be solved one day.
As I told you before, my fear is that many people who vote Labour will do so in the belief that they are voting for a quiet life. Yet there can be no quiet thing as a quiet life any more for the people of this island. Those who vote for a quiet life may in fact find, if they vote is the majority, that they have achieved exactly the opposite of what they desired. May it be so to the Tories. May it be so to the Labour Party. Your affectionate nephew, Reginald Maudling.

The author is Conservative parliamentary candidate in Barnet, Chipping Barnet.
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The sad tale I find hard to swallow

Bernard Levin

(My apologies to those planning to hang themselves before the weekend, but I have such a lot to say about the new Government. Ring that it won't fit into this space, so despite my promise that you would be hearing from me on the subject today, you will have to wait until Saturday.

The augurers tell me, we shall have news tonight. I shall wait it out in my usual semi-recumbent posture (though before leaving the subject I must make a final appeal to Mr Alastair Burnet to say "Everything still to play for" roughly every 15 seconds from shortly after the polls close until five o'clock the following morning, as he did last time), though on this occasion I am taking the precaution of getting my hair cut first, on the ground that if I am going to be guillotined as soon as it's all over I might as well be looking my best when I sneeze into the sack.

Meanwhile, there is a world elsewhere. "Starving swallows helped to cross the Alps," said the headline, and the headline underneath was fitfully exotic. It seems that the swallows which normally fly south at this time of year, the better educated among them presumably murmuring Goethe's *Kennst du das Land*, or, if I shall wait it out in my usual semi-recumbent posture (though before leaving the subject I must make a final appeal to Mr Alastair Burnet to say "Everything still to play for" roughly every 15 seconds from shortly after the polls close until five o'clock the following morning, as he did last time), though on this occasion I am taking the precaution of getting my hair cut first, on the ground that if I am going to be guillotined as soon as it's all over I might as well be looking my best when I sneeze into the sack.

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For the Conservatives, Edward Heath seemed to be harking back again to the spirit of 1939. "There will not be economic peace in our time," he said. Apprecement would not solve the crisis. Austere and sacrifice lay ahead. The Margaret Thatcher weighed in with some rather more pleasant memories—of Harold Macmillan and his hundreds of thousands of houses in the golden fifties.

Harold Wilson, for the other side, was worse. He began with quotations from Churchill and Disraeli, then moved on to Cobden, Churchill again, his (Wilson's) father, Sir Alec Douglas-Home (for whom he had warm words) and again Harold Macmillan, about whom he reminisced with affection.

Only Jeremy Thorpe, relayed electronically from Barnstaple, said, "I would decide whether things were to get better or worse. In one wildly euphoric answer (I think all that travel by helicopter might have affected his judgment) he was discussing in apparent seriousness the timing of his first budget this year.

Attendance at the conference was back up to the standard of the opening day, possibly greater. Standing room only. At the Liberals, there was interest in the break-in at their party headquarters and the possibility of a Watergate parallel. Arthur Holt, the party presi-

swallows have been arriving at their usual restaurants to be met, not by the usual smiling *maitre d'hotel*, but by barred doors and shuttered windows, and signs explaining that the place is closed because there are no insects to be had (no doubt the waiter of the restaurants in question have simply painted "No grub" on the gate), and there are no insects to be had because the unseasonable weather in those parts, which has been colder and windier than normal, has killed most of them off. No insects, no swallows; the harbingers of summer have been starving in their thousands, and the Swiss authorities, without going so far as to say that unless the swallows are saved there will be no summer at all south of the Alps this year, have mounted a massive operation. They have appealed to Swiss citizens to collect and feed exhausted birds and, as if that wasn't enough to convince nations elsewhere that they are entirely mistaken in their view of the Swiss as a dour and unemotional people, they have asked the producers of Tobiéron chocolate (and why, while I am about it, can you not get the green-wrapped kind, which is the best, in this country?), over-priced drugs, cuckoo clocks and a special kind of *Pate Brise*, or, if I shall wait it out in my usual semi-recumbent posture (though before leaving the subject I must make a final appeal to Mr Alastair Burnet to say "Everything still to play for" roughly every 15 seconds from shortly after the polls close until five o'clock the following morning, as he did last time), though on this occasion I am taking the precaution of getting my hair cut first, on the ground that if I am going to be guillotined as soon as it's all over I might as well be looking my best when I sneeze into the sack.

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from anywhere in Switzerland, to Italy or to the resort of your choice by the Mediterranean. All you have to do is to get somebody to put you in a cardboard box and deliver you to the nearest station with a label on you. If you are a particularly adventurous swallow, you can even go free by Swissair.

So far, so good. The famished swallows are collected by the Swiss bird-lovers when these come back from their day's work yodelling or numbing their brains with alcohol, and when sufficiently recovered off they go to the station or airport in a cardboard box, and it's high time for Calabry, Monte, Juanes-Pins or Rabat.

But wait. Just as there is no rose without a thorn, no day without a night, no sin without remorse (though they are, I understand, working on that one), so there is a catch even in this; the appeal urges people to go to swallows' gathering places and there "shake the bushes and trees, or better, light fires under the latter's branches" to drive out insects for the birds to feed on. And at that point of course, the who goes enough insects to eat. But you cannot expect the insect to see it that way, and I am afraid you cannot expect me to do so, either.

I am sure that it is a very unpleasant thing for a swallow to starve, but I am sure that it is no less unpleasant for an insect to be eaten by a swallow, particularly if it is half-roasted first. And after all, the swallows' plight is none of the insects' doing. They didn't ask to be killed off by the cold and the wind, and they might well as well ask me to ask me to get behind—why, when that was happening to them, the Swiss Government was not offering them hickies trips at the taxpayers' expense to the Costa Smeralda and points south.

No doubt most Romans at the Colosseum thought that the lions were getting the better of the bargain, and I dare say the Christians thought so too. But a lloo kept awake all night afterwards with indignation might have felt that there was more to the business, and indeed the Christians, than met the eye. Saki had a word for it:

*A mouse which prayed for Blasphemy when no such aid befell;
A cat which feasted on that; Thought Allah managed vastly well.
Pray not for aid to one who made A set of never-changing laws; But in your need remember He gave you speed, or claws.*

But even Allah made no allowance for the Swiss coming along and taking sides. As Heisenberg used to say to me when I was a young man, "I was relaxing over a drink at the Physicists' Arms. It all depends on the observer."

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dom seen or heard in Sutton or Parliament. Macfarlane rushed out a personal letter to every house in the constituency rebutting the smear ("a completely untrue statement which would indicate the act of a desperate and irresponsible young man"), and he returns to the theme in his final leaflet ("campaign...soured by unfounded personal attacks...").

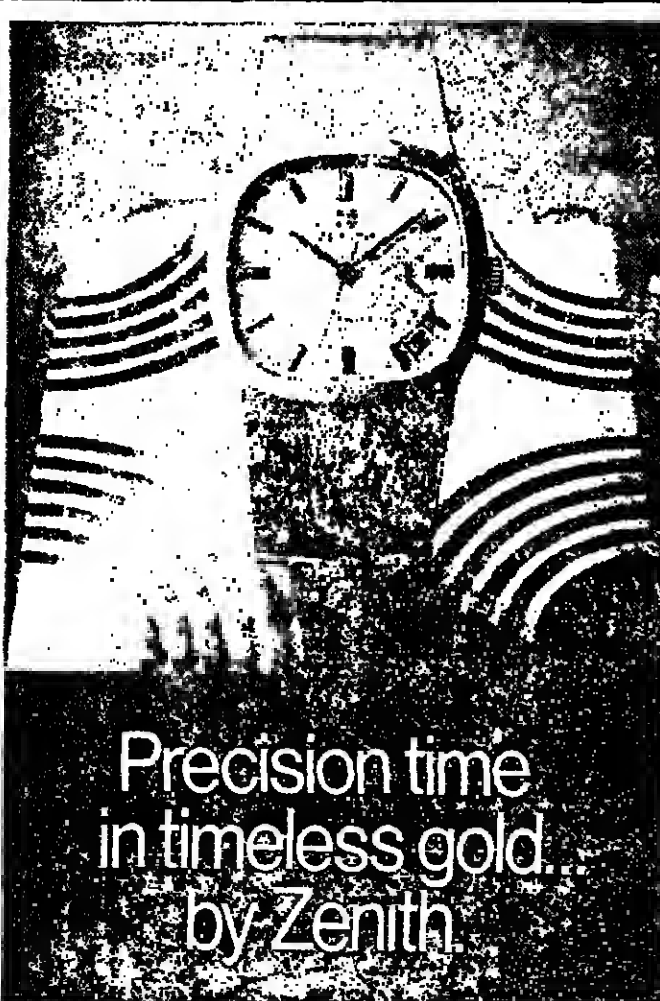
Meanwhile a leaflet called *The Hidden Face of the Liberal Party* has been sent to many electors. It shows a South African baby born victim "of Liberal terrorism". Conservatives in Sutton and Chesham say it is a disgusting document. Macfarlane calls it "fit only for the dustbin".

The talk at Liberal headquarters is all of dirty tricks. The Liberals claim their telephones have been jammed and that once on their line they could hear Conservatives discussing tactics. The Conservatives had William Whitelaw, the last name of the campaign, for a walkabout in North Chesham on Tuesday afternoon. "Where are all the people?" grumbled the man from Central Office. "We had a marvellous walkabout in Paddington 10 days ago. Every colour under the sun, wonderful pictures, but none of them could speak English."

Macfarlane said that North Chesham might not be crowded, but the people Whitelaw met were indigenous, and North Chesham and Worcester Park had been neglected in the campaign so far. Worcester Park is still neglected: after an argument in Sainsbury's about whether prices went up faster under Conservatives or Labour, Whitelaw did not have time to go there.

Robinson Young's final report from Sutton and Chesham: The campaign ended with a shower of paper and a dinge of acrimony as the parties delivered their last-minute leaflets last night and in the early hours of this morning.

The Liberal election address described Neil Macfarlane as "a junior backbench Tory MP still living in Maidenhead, and sel-



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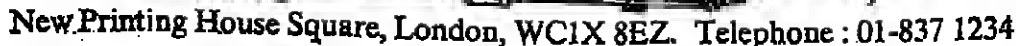
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هكمان الأمل



General Lyautey, as he was then, was appointed Resident General in Morocco in 1912. One of his first orders was that an avenue of cypresses should be planted without delay in front of the Residency. When an aide protested that it would be 50 years before the trees grew to any maturity, the General is said to have replied, "Well then, there is not a moment to lose."

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY TURNER,
Bill House Farm,
Beare Green,
St. Dunstons, Surrey

the teamworkers

Taylor Woodrow

Stock Exchange Prices

Election nerves

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Sept 30. Dealings End, Oct 11. § Contango Day, Oct 14. Settlement Day, Oct 22.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

* Adjusted for tax changes. * Ex dividend. * Ex all-
Forecast dividend. * Corrected price. * Interim pay-
passed. 1 Price at suspension. * Dividend and re-
clude a special payment. * Hid for company.
Pre-merger figures. * Forecast earnings. * Ex am-
distribution. * Ex rights. * Ex scrip or share split. * To
free. * Dividend.

هكذا من الأهل



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



New Herstatt Bank quota proposals put forward after creditors' protests

Cologne, Oct. 9. — Herr Guenter Vogelsang, independent Herstatt negotiator, proposed new settlement quotas for the creditors of the closed Bankhaus I. D. Herstatt KGAA at a press conference in Cologne this evening.

Herr Vogelsang said the new proposals would cost DM1,220m (about £201.5m) against DM1,140m in his earlier proposals of September 23.

No-banks with claims of DM897m would receive DM583m; local authorities with claims of DM202m, DM111m; foreign banks with claims of DM461m, DM254m; and domestic banks with claims of DM604m would receive DM272m, Herr Vogelsang said.

He said Herstatt assets valued at DM984m, of which DM25m would be placed into reserves, leaving DM959m for creditors. To cover the DM25m, Herr Vogelsang proposed that a special DM25m fund be created.

The city of Cologne, end of the Herstatt collapse, had rejected earlier proposals for a settlement made by Herr Vogelsang.

Under the present plan Herr Vogelsang, former major shareholder in Herstatt, would contribute the DM200m raised from the sale of half his insurance empire to a consortium of West German banks.

West German private banks would contribute DM35m from their fire-fighting fund, the rmao savings banks DM15m, and people's and farmers' cooperative banks DM10m, and Herr Gerling's hardship fund, stated shortly after the Herstatt collapse, would contribute a further DM10m.

Herr Vogelsang suggested that German banks should contribute a further DM20m in the profits made in coming forward exchange deals, further DM35m should be contributed by a voluntary fund by domestic creditors in the proceeds of attachments.

Herr Vogelsang said he was viced his new proposals represented an acceptable solution, and he had sent a recommendation that they should be accepted in the interests of a ready conclusion of the Herstatt affair.

Herr Vogelsang recalled that final report of the provisional liquidator showed that Herstatt was unable to cover DM1,205m of its final liabilities. This, which was an improvement on some DM65m at the earlier stage, was the average settlement for creditors was 44.95 per cent.

With this in mind that proposed quota for domestic banks had now been set at 45 per cent.

Herr Vogelsang hoped that decision to reach the quota of the local authorities to the 1 of the foreign banks

West German creditors who have placed attachments would receive 75 per cent of the proceeds from such actions and give 25 per cent in the special fund. In this way DM35m would flow into the coffers of the special fund for the benefit of all creditors.

Alan McGregor writes from Geneva: he International Credit Bank said that it had asked the Swiss authorities for permission to declare a banking moratorium, and would remain closed pending a decision.

In a statement issued by the board of directors, who have been meeting over the past two days, press reports "without foundation" were blamed for withdrawals by depositors fearing difficulties. The bank had been closed for two days because of the Jewish holiday.

On Monday, the Hessische Landesbank Grossescheide, under the original share transfer contract, requested the ICB to repurchase the 36.4 per cent of the equity held by the Frankfurt bank.

The ICB came into the news last month with reports from Israel of a more than £8m loss by the Israel Corporation, the agency through which funds are channelled for developing the country.

The ICB was founded here 15 years ago by Dr Tibor Rosenbaum. He owns 60 per cent of the shares of the bank, which holds about £30m in deposits. Capital and reserves were put at £13m.

In announcing its withdrawal from the ICB, the Frankfurt bank said its decision was because of "conduct not conforming to the rules of international banking" on the part of Dr Rosenbaum.

The Swiss Federal Banking Commission in Berne has asked for an emergency audit of the bank's books.

On September 27, the board of the Israel Corporation which was set up in 1968, decided to open an investigation into the situation with regard to all funds placed with companies with which Dr Rosenbaum is associated.

The ICB faced a difficult situation in 1967 after United States officials alleged that it had handled Mafia money emanating from gambling business. It was helped then by funds from Investors Overseas Services (IOS).

The ICB directors' statement said: "It is our duty to take appropriate measures to protect our worldwide clients. Accordingly, we have considered it necessary to ask for a banking moratorium and maintain the closure of the bank closed until a decision has been given by a competent judge."

The statement said a contributory cause of the request for a moratorium was the failure of negotiations aimed at having an outside banking group come to the rescue, identified by an ICB official as the Hapollim Bank of Israel.

The official said the bank's assets covered all its liabilities. "We still hope to find a solution for the Israel Corporation deposits", he added.

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Takeover bid to bring FMC back to farmers

By Anthony Rowley

The National Farmers' Union, acting through the NFU Development Trust, last night launched a surprise takeover bid for FMC, the quoted meat and by-products group which incorporates Marsh & Baxter/Harris, the pigmeat complex.

This is designed to bring FMC back under "farmer control", Mr David Darbishire, chairman of NFU Development Trust, which already owns 40.9 per cent of FMC, said.

The bid, which values FMC at £6.5m, was put to the FMC board yesterday afternoon and the directors' attitude towards it was unknown last night.

On the Stock Exchange the price of FMC shares had risen 50 per cent to 60p by the close of dealings last night. This compares with the 65p share in cash being offered by the NFU Development Trust.

The existing NFU stake in FMC represents the holding it retains on behalf of the NFU, when FMC was floated as a public company in 1962. Previous to that the FMC stock was owned by the FMC Development Corporation, as it was named on being set up in 1954, wholly owned by the NFU.

The reason for bringing the public shares in FMC to enable it to raise funds to buy Marsh & Baxter/Harris in 1962. However, the NFU Development Trust has now decided that "farmer control" of FMC is necessary again.

This is so that FMC "the largest meat wholesaling organization in the United Kingdom, can play a fuller part in creating greater stability of supply and price for producers, meat traders and housewives", the trust said in a statement last night.

A new framework is needed which will give livestock producers clearer guidance on consumer needs and greater security in meeting them.

Under the NFU's plan, it is envisaged that the FMC will be able to increase cooperation throughout the meat industry and ensure that British farmers are better able to meet the industry's demands.

The NFU is withdrawing the bid from its own resources. The bid is conditional on no reference being made to the Moorside and Mergers Commission.

Though FMC controls only about 12 per cent of the United Kingdom cattle and sheep slaughtering business and 26 per cent of pig slaughtering, the bid could be referred on grounds of the assets involved.

The Minister of Agriculture has been informed of the bid though no prior reference to the EEC authorities is required. FMC's preference shares are not the subject of a bid, and would remain quoted.

Financial Editor, page 23

Australian union leaders call for nationalization of Leyland plant

By Herbert Michael and Edward Townsend

Australian union leaders yesterday called on the Government to nationalize Leyland's unprofitable Australian car manufacturing operations, which in their present form, seem destined for closure.

Leyland's Sydney manufacturing plant was halted when 4,000 workers held a meeting at which they decided to shut down the car works on the same lines as the French government conducted Renault.

Workers' fears were heightened this week by reports that the company was discussing plans with the Government to sell the Leyland plant, which is three miles from Sydney—and turn it into a huge housing estate.

British Leyland in London declined to comment yesterday and Mr David Abell, general manager of Leyland Australia, said that an official statement would be issued in the next few days.

Union leaders issued a warning that if the plan proceeded, the Leyland plant would be sold to a foreign company, as far as the trade unions were concerned. Unionists would refuse to support a government which committed a work force of nearly 5,000 to unemployment and no prospects of securing work in the motor car industry.

Today, union leaders are to meet Mr Keppel Enderby, Minister for Manufacturing Industry, to discuss the situation. Mr Enderby has taken part in talks with Leyland which have been going on for the past seven weeks.

Mr T. Uren, Minister for Regional and Urban Development, and Mr W. G. Hayden, acting Treasurer, confirmed to reporters that discussions were taking place between the Government and company representatives.

They could neither confirm nor deny the rumours about the site being used for a big housing estate financed and controlled by the Federal Government. Representatives of Leyland Australia said that negotiations with the Government were at a delicate stage and Mr Abell said that a lot of speculation about the future of the company in Australia was going on.

The situation is being heavily influenced by the fact that the Industries Assistance Committee's recent report expressed the opinion that there was room in Australia for only three motor car manufacturing companies and the implication that General Motors Holden, Ford

and Chrysler would be the companies to survive.

Leyland Australia has lost about \$A15m (about £10m) in three years, and in terms of output and sales is bottom of the league. There has been a growing opinion at BLMC headquarters in London that the operation should be rationalized.

Now the company has the IAC report to back its view that volume car manufacture on a small scale is uneconomic and that the present stringent regulations governing the locally manufactured content of cars should be relaxed to allow import of assembled vehicles.

Almost 5,000 workers are employed at the Sydney plant which produces about 30,000 Minis, Marinas and the ill-fated P76 models a year. Thousands more work in component suppliers' factories. The company also operates a profitable truck and bus plant at Milperra producing about 2,500 vehicles a year.

The scaling down of the Sydney plant, which now seems inevitable unless the Government can work out a formula to inject state aid into the operation, must lead in the demise of the P76. Leyland's all-Australian car, which has achieved sales of about 20,000 since it was launched 16 months ago.

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Broking firm to stop trading next month

By Terry Elyard

Formal notice is expected from The Stock Exchange today that Solomon and Co, a London-based stockbroking firm with nine partners and associate members, will cease trading on November 8.

Mr Ivor Lewisohn, senior partner of Solomon, stressed last night that the firm had chosen to cease trading while financially sound "rather than to continue in an uncertain economic climate."

In a clear reference to the low level of turnover on The Stock Exchange, he added that the firm found it hard to predict a situation in which trading conditions could be expected to improve "in the foreseeable future."

Solomon expects to close all outstanding positions by November 8, and it is understood that no question of loss to members of the public is involved. The firm's business is spread between institutional and private clients.

The decision to cease trading reflects the deep gloom felt in stock market circles. Turnover in equities remains in the range of £30m-£40m a day, compared with £100m plus at the peak of the bull market.

Six firms have already chosen to cease trading during this year, while five have been "hammered" by financial failure. Also indicating the decline of market business is the increase in stockbroking mergers—24 firms have negotiated mergers this year.

Solomon employs 31 dealing, administrative and clerical staff.

The Stock Exchange disclosed yesterday the first results of its survey of the loan positions of member firms. The survey has disclosed that stockbroking firms have been reducing loans to clients, and that only some 20 accounts now fail to measure up to the council's new requirements.

Do you hold shares?

Shares have never needed close attention as in these uncertain times. Now, if you offer to buy your shares—often on advantageous terms—and re-invest the proceeds in a unit trust, the benefits are many: security of a wider fund, frequent reappraisal of professional investment management, and considerable capital gains tax advantages.

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Poll forecast causes sharp fall in shares

By Our Financial Staff

Indications from opinion polls of a continued Labour lead brought sharp falls in London stock market prices at the outcome of today's General Election. The fall in prices was accentuated by the sudden reversal of Tuesday's trend, when there were hints in the City of a last minute deterioration in Labour's chances.

Market indices showed substantial falls within the first hour of trading, and continued to fall away throughout the session. The FT index quickly abandoned the 200 mark which was regained on the previous day, and by the end of the trading session had lost 9.3 points to 191.9. The Times index, at 74.49 shed 2.45 points.

Growing concern at the Government's increasing financial deficit was largely responsible for further falls in gilts. One sign of increased uncertainty was switching from the longer end of the market into "shorts".

Market reports, page 25

Guilty plea by former Equity Funding chief

Los Angeles, Oct. 9.—Mr Stanley Goldblum, the man who headed the now bankrupt Equity Funding Corporation of America, has pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy in the biggest business scandals in the United States this century.

Mr Goldblum, aged 47, a former scrap metal dealer and meat salesman, was founder, chairman and president of the company, which was started in 1950 to sell mutual funds and insurance.

The financial conglomerate collapsed in April last year after a scandal over its operations allegedly involving tens of millions of dollars in false insurance policies and non-existent corporate assets.

Mr Goldblum's decision yesterday to plead guilty to the five counts of conspiracy and securities and mail fraud, abruptly ended the jury trial after one week. He will be sentenced later.—Reuter.

Arrest warrant issued for Signor Sindona

Milan, Oct. 9.—Dr Ovidio Urbisci, Milan's deputy public prosecutor, said today he had issued an arrest warrant for Signor Michele Sindona, Italian financier, on charges of illegal banking operations.

Dr Urbisci told journalists that Signor Sindona, aged 53, was charged on two counts of falsifying accounts and illegally diverting profits in connection with the activities of his now defunct Banca Sindona in 1970.

Signor Sindona, who is a naturalized Swiss, is believed to be in Switzerland. He could face 15 years' imprisonment if he is convicted on the charges, but justice sources here said they saw little prospect of his being extradited.

Banca Sindona was merged earlier this year with Banca Privata Finanziaria, another Sindona-owned bank, and became Banca Privata Italiana. This was put into liquidation at the end of September.—Reuter.

Dollar weakens after Ford policy statement

By Melvyn Westlake

Disappointment in President Ford's economic policy measures for tackling United States inflation, together with declining Eurodollar interest rates led to a fresh bout of speculation against the dollar on foreign exchanges yesterday.

Weakening in all the major European financial centres, the American currency slumped to its lowest level since early summer. By the close of trading, it was over 10 pence lower than the West German mark (at 2.5565) and almost 3 pence down against the Swiss franc (at 2.90).

Currency dealers viewed President Ford's economic "package" as a considerable anticlimax, particularly after the series of economic summit meetings that the President has been conducting, which had given rise to high expectations.

How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Bk of NSW	45p to 32½p	Adams Food	2p to 17p
Broken Hill	40p to 44½p	BP	10p to 25½p
Commonwealth	10p to 71½p	Barclays Bk	7p to 13½p
FMC	20p to 60p	Boddams	4p to 13½p
Gresham Inv	2p to 21p	Christies Int	3p to 37p
Rollas Gp	2p to 25p	Disillers	3p to 85p
Kettering Mtr	7p to 65p	GEC	5p to 65p
Philips Lamp	17p to 57½p	GKN	5p to 14½p
Koyo Group	1p to 12p	Imp Chem Ind	7p to 16½p
Sprecher, C	2p to 12p	Pressey	3p to 57p
Union Corp	8p to 60p	Sir Walker	10p to 100p
Warren, J	10p to 14½p	Thorn Electric	10p to 100p
West'n Mining	10p to 107p	Union Discount	10p to 150p
W Ribbons	4p to 22p	Whescoe	5p to 41p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.84	1.78
Austria Sch	44.75	42.75
Belgium Fr	93.25	90.50
Canada \$	2.335	2.285
Denmark Kr	14.40	14.00
Finland Mk	9.10	8.85
France Fr	6.20	6.00
Germany DM	72.00	69.00
Hongkong \$	11.85	11.50
Italy Lr	1655.00	1600.00
Japan Yn	725.00	700.00
Netherlands Gld	6.35	6.15
Norway Kr	13.00	12.65
Portugal Esc	65.00	61.50
Spain Ptas	164	157
Sweden Kr	10.50	10.20
Switzerland Fr	2.90	2.85
US \$	2.38	2.35
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.50	37.00

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INTERIM STATEMENT

STANWOOD RADIO LIMITED

Interim Report			
The unaudited results of the Company for the half-year ended 30th June, 1974, with relative comparisons, are as follows:—			
	Six months to 30th June 1974	1973	Year to 31st Dec. 1973
Turnover	£	£	£
Cash Sales	1,283,000	913,000	2,185,000
Television Rentals	1,375,000	1,256,000	2,558,000
Hire Purchase	438,000	670,000	1,559,000
	£3,096,000	£2,841,000	£6,302,000
Trading Profit	£901,863	£847,209	£2,148,582
Deduct:—			
Depreciation	751,131	636,386	1,481,807
Interest charges	380,576	207,068	483,049
	£1,081,707	£843,454	£1,964,856
Net Profit	£	£103,755	£183,726
Net Loss	£179,744	—	—

At 31st December, 1973, the Company had some £570,000 of Deferred Tax Reserves, and these will be released into the Revenue Account against losses, if and when they occur.

Although turnover showed a small increase, Trading Profit was approximately 3% lower due to consistently reducing margins.

Depreciation was again at a higher level due to increased investment in television rental over the past few years. This charge will tend to level out in the future as older colour sets are fully written off.

Interest charges reached a peak by 30th June, due mainly to the crippling interest rate operating over the past year. Since that date borrowings are steadily being reduced through the Company's positive cash flow, and with the present trend towards lower interest rates this heavy charge should fall.

Current Trading

In the September quarter cash sales and hire purchase increased substantially compared with the first six months and as the December quarter is normally our busiest period, it is expected that turnover in the second half will be considerably higher than the half-year to June.

The requirement of 42 weeks advance payment on new rental contracts has continued to restrict new business and it is hoped that the restrictions may be eased once the election is over.

Every effort is being made to improve profitability, but it is essential to maintain a higher standard of service to the public and it is not easy to overcome inflationary pressures and reduce operating costs.

Interim Dividend

The Directors have not been able to recommend the payment of an interim dividend, but will review the matter when the results for the year are available.

In view of the present uncertainty regarding the economic and political outlook it would be unwise to forecast the immediate future, but the Directors are confident of the strength and viability of the Company.

OECD paves the way for detailed oil talks with producers

Tokyo, Oct. 9.—Mr Emile van Lennep, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), who is on a visit here, has told Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japanese Trade Minister, that the OECD would meet the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as experts level in the first half of next year. They would discuss problems caused by the higher price of oil, Japanese sources said.

The sources added that Mr van Lennep told Mr Nakasone he had already met Mr Abdelrahman Khene, OPEC secretary-general, to prepare for the meeting.

Mr Nakasone proposed that OECD should convene a high-level conference of its member countries specifically aimed at discussing problems posed by the oil-producing nations, such as the recycling of oil dollars and economic aid to developing countries, the sources said. Mr van Lennep agreed with the proposal.

OECD taxes: Ecuador has increased charges on the Texaco-Gulf Oil group in the country by 3.5 per cent retroactive to October 1 to keep with a recent OPEC resolution. Señor Carlos Aguirre, presidential spokesman, said in Quito.

The increase includes a rise in income tax to 52 per cent from 45 per cent and an upward adjustment of 8.8 per cent to the price basis used to calculate the income tax.

It also includes an increase of 0.67 per cent in the proportion of the government-owned daily export ceiling of 210,000 barrels on which royalties are paid. The government previously received 33,600 barrels daily in royalties. The rise in royalties equals an additional 1,407 barrels daily.

Ecuador owns a 25 per cent interest in the Texaco-Gulf group.

Mozambique prospecting: Oil prospecting in Mozambique will resume after a two-year break, the South African Press Association reported from Beira.

Hunt International Co. of America is planning to begin drilling early next year in the Zambezi delta. Technicians and equipment are expected to start arriving in Beira in the next two weeks.

A new offshore drilling rig is being completed for the company in Scotland.

Gulf Oil Corporation is also expected to go ahead shortly with a new prospecting programme in the Cabo del Gado area of northern Mozambique. —Reuters and AP-DJ.

North Sea production likely to be controlled

By Peter Hill

Oil companies operating in the North Sea will be faced with controls on the rate at which oil is produced from offshore fields whichever government is returned after today's general election.

Mr John Liverman, a senior official at the Department of Energy reaffirmed the importance of conserving valuable resources in a speech to an offshore technology conference in London organized by the *Financial Times*. Offshore deposits were limited, he said, and governments could not be indifferent to their rate of exploitation and exhaustion.

"Even on the eve of a general election, I can say that powers of control over depletion rates will be taken here, since all political parties have stated their support for such action, although the powers themselves and the way in which they would be exercised remain to be seen."

The task would not be easy, said Mr Liverman. Producers needed some assurance that they would be allowed to exploit their discoveries at a rate which would ensure an economic return on their investment.

But governments needed to preserve a measure of flexibility in their energy policy, he said.

Cleveland County Council in north-east England claimed yesterday that companies within its area had possibly the highest regional share of the estimated £1,000m of offshore contracting work being undertaken in the United Kingdom.

Councillor Maureen Taylor, speaking at a press conference in London said that orders might be issued in the next few months to limit the amount of work in the region to about £200m.

This information had been revealed in a recent survey carried out by the authority's planning department, which had also shown that more than 100 companies in the area were involved in offshore oil contracts employing 5,000 workers.

Furniture makers and retailers cutting delay on deliveries

By David Young

Furniture makers and retailers are now catching up with the high increase in demand which has caused serious delivery delays to customers over the past 18 months.

Reports of lengthy delays between orders being placed and goods delivered are reinforced by a report in *Which?* magazine today. This claims that delivery of furniture often takes twice as long as the time quoted.

Manufacturers have now rearranged production schedules to meet increased demand for popular lines and delivery services have been improved.

G-Plan, one of the largest furniture makers which last year was quoted over a year for delivery of some of its items, has now cut delivery times to weeks.

Habitat Designs and Schreiber Furniture have now developed their own delivery networks. Mr Terence Conran of Habitat said that road and rail delivery networks had become so congested

that delays were increasing and items misrouted.

The problem was caused by an unforeseen demand for furniture, he said, which has continued and is now being met. Many furniture firms, however, sent in quick assembly forms which reduce the risk of damage in transit, another point raised by *Which?*

The *Which?* report says that a quarter of the 2,000 items involved in the survey were delivered with some damage. The damage was subsequently repaired but in some cases this was not done for up to 12 months.

Which? also reports that apart from automatic washing machines and tumble-driers, electrical household appliances have not improved in reliability since the magazine's last survey in 1971. There has also been no improvement in servicing.

Freezers are the most reliable of domestic appliances and dishwashers the most unreliable.

Legal & General gives £3m cash boost to subsidiary

By Our Financial Staff

Legal & General is making a £3m cash injection into Victory Insurance, its reinsurance subsidiary, it was revealed yesterday in the group's interim report.

The move, which follows Norwich Union's £30m cash injection into its short term operations earlier this week, is a further indication of the extent to which the insurance industry is suffering from the collapse in market values of its investment assets, combined with the impact of inflation on liabilities.

Legal & General acquired Victory early in 1973 for £4.6m. A note to the group's annual accounts shows that the subsidiary made a trading loss and suffered a diminution of around £1.6m in the market value of its investments between the date of acquisition and Legal & General's calendar year end. The £3m injection announced yesterday is designed "to put

the solvency of Victory beyond any doubt."

Highlights of the interim report include a 68 per cent increase in new pension premiums from £13m to £21.8m, attributed to the requirements of the Conservative Government's Social Security Act, which stimulated employers to extend and improve pension schemes.

Life premiums were down from £5.9m to £5.5m because of unfavourable economic conditions, while general insurance premiums were 27 per cent up from £21.2m to £26.9m.

While Legal & General has continued to make progress despite difficult economic conditions, the group will be adversely affected if these are prolonged.

Even after the recent relaxation of dividend controls, the effects of restraint on other investment media, particularly property, are continuing to have a severe effect.

CBI tax relief scheme

Industrial leaders are to meet tomorrow to complete taxation proposals to be put before a new Government. The taxation committee of the Confederation of British Industry has been drawing up proposals for a radical change in the treatment of stock appreciation for tax purposes.

The CBI study is expected to be among the first documents to be put before the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. Stock appreciation arises when the cost of replacing a company's stock has risen above its original cost.

To maintain the same level of activity, the company then has

to find additional cash to buy the same amount of stock. Since the tax system makes no allowance for replacement costs, the strain on company funds is increased in a period of inflation—particularly when increases cannot be passed on in the form of higher prices.

If the Labour Party wins the election, the CBI is expected to respond immediately to Mr Wilson's invitation to join the Government in taking the taxation proposals to the House of Commons. Mr Wilson's invitation now throws the onus on industrial leaders to back up their criticisms of the social contract with constructive proposals for its improvement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Self-employed tax will hit the clergy hard

From the Rev J. E. Burgess
Sir, One group of self-employed persons who will be hard hit by the new tax for National Insurance in Class 4 will be the clergy.

The recommended stipend scales now mean that most dioceses have a minimum income from all sources of £1,800 per annum for incumbents, and the majority of clergy will have this new tax to pay.

Many clergy already find the payment of £241 a week difficult to find, and if Church Councils' attempt to be generous and help with the cost it is promptly taxed by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument.

Perhaps the anachronism whereby clergy have self-employed status should now be ended.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. BURGESS,
Rural Dean,
St John the Baptist Church,
Kewham,
Bristol.
October 7.

treated as self-employed for national insurance purposes will now be treated as employed, thus being enabled to charge the greater part of their Class 4 contribution against profits for tax purposes and at the same time escaping the new tax on self-employment.

Unfortunately this escape route is not available to the members of most professions, as they cannot turn their professional practices into limited companies. I am in this category and I am pursuing the idea of making my wife my employer.

She would have to pay national insurance contributions as a self-employed person, but we could arrange my salary that there would be insufficient profit left with my wife for her to have to pay the new self-employment tax.

The greater part of my Class 1 stamp would be charged against profits for tax purposes and I would become eligible to draw unemployment benefit, which I am not as a self-employed person.

I can only assume that this vindictive new tax is being introduced because the self-employed are thought to be paying less tax than they should. You can be pretty sure that those who are evading tax at present will take good care that they pay no more in future.

Some of the great majority of the self-employed who are not guilty of tax evasion will be tempted to follow the example of those less honest.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. HOWLETT,
Rev. Canon,
St. Mary's,
Sherborne,
Dorset.

the value of the original proposal which dated from 1972. That logic, if correct, ignores the fact that the self-employed have had a touch freeze on their earnings since 1972. Both phase 2 and phase 3 regulations contain the provision:

"Increases in labour costs may not include any element in respect of proprietors or partners as distinct from employees' time."

The self-employed are therefore to pay an additional tax in respect of an inflation in which they have by nature been prevented from securing a commensurate increase in their earnings.

It should be noted that the new impost is geared to Schedule D profits, not to taxable income, and that a person without substantial personal allowances and a low Schedule D income will never catch the full force of the new burden. It will be particularly harshly on young people newly established in the professions, who frequently have low incomes and very heavy commitments.

Dr Michael Winstanley, member for Cheddle in the last Parliament and with whom I have corresponded on the issue, is well aware of the problem. He has written to the *Times* affected by it would well canvass the views of the candidates in the election, and therefore members after it, if they do not contemplate with equanimity and extra bill from the Inland Revenue of up to £160 in 1975— for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding,
Castle Morris,
Near Havorthorpe,
Pembrokeshire.

From Mr Keith A. Mallinson
Sir, A number of your correspondents are rather critical of the new National Health Insurance contributions for the self-employed.

I would interpret the fact as follows:—

(a) The proposals were implicit in the Tory 1973 Social Security Act (although not mentioned by your correspondents).

My information is that Mrs Castle had a Bill before the Commons to raise the rate to 8 per cent on the £1,600 to £3,600 profit band, but that this Bill fell before the dissolution of Parliament for the present election.

If that is correct (and given the strike generated chaos at the Stationery Office one cannot be sure) it would seem that the department, in issuing the uprated version of NP7, are assuming that the next Government will sort things out before April, 1975.

I am told that the logic behind Mrs Castle's proposed increase was that inflation had eroded

Property and the training of valuers

From Mr K. W. Forbes
Sir, In his letter published on September 19 Mr Rex Hudson invites amplification of 'the state of the profession' covered by the Society of Valuers & Auctioneers (ISVA) says "continuous attention and study" to the importance of keeping pace with trends and conditions in property valuation, with particular reference to the property assets of quoted companies.

The training and experience of the individual valuer enable him to interpret the property market under changing conditions, but the society is aware of the need to supplement this knowledge when severe economic pressures and political decisions can and do make an unprecedented impact on the property market.

At regular intervals the society organizes conferences in conjunction with the Centre for Advanced Land Use Studies (CALUS), a division of the College of Estate Management, University of Reading, to enable members of the profession to keep abreast both of general and specialized property subjects. A series of conferences on valuation and commercial property interests has included

a course directed precisely to the issue raised by your correspondent and the most recent held at the University on September 20-22 covered 'The Management of Property Development'. I may add that these conferences are guided not by theorists, but by property developers, consultants, planners, solicitors, stockbrokers, accountants and others, including valuers and surveyors directly involved in the development, valuation, management and realization of property assets. The treatment of property values in company accounts was comprehensively dealt with in a memorandum published in 1972 and wide ranging practice notes and articles appear in the society's monthly journal *The Valuer*.

Mr Hudson questions our examination standards and states correctly that ISVA came into being as recently as 1968, but fails to point out that it was formed by the amalgamation of The Incorporated Society of Auctioneers & Land Property Agents (ISALPA) founded in 1924 and The Valuers' Institution founded in 1927. The Valuers' Institution "closed its doors"

to admission to corporate membership, other than by examination, in 1962, and as a former member of ISALPA Mr Hudson is no doubt aware that the society had already imposed the same restriction in 1956.

Corporate membership is still attainable only by passing examinations which are not wholly controlled by an independent examinations board under the chairmanship of Mr Frank Leyfield, FRCGS.

Space will not permit me to itemize all the examination subjects, but of the nine papers which make up Part II of the Final under the general practice syllabus, four are devoted to valuation and cover development, taxation, rating and compensation as well as more general aspects such as investment, mortgage and estate duty.

Any of your readers interested in obtaining further information on the training and examination of our members is welcome to get in touch with the education officer at the headquarters.

Yours faithfully,
K. W. FORBES, President,
The Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers,
3 Cadogan Gate,
London SW1X 0AS.

Kuwait 'inviting bids for cheaper crude'

Kuwait, Oct. 9.—Kuwait was reported to be inviting 25 international oil companies to bid for 300 barrels of crude per day, for a two-year period from October 1, at 93 per cent of the posted price.

Al-Seyasah, the daily newspaper, said the companies involved were European, American and Japanese.

The oil for sale is from the state's 60 per cent share of output under its participation deal with the owners of the Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait's leading producer.

The price asked, according to Al-Seyasah, is the same as KOC's former co-owners, British Petroleum and the Gulf Oil Corporation, are paying this quarter for 900,000 barrels per day of oil "bought back" from the state share.

Nuclear power: Kuwait plans to start producing power from nuclear reactors by 1985, and will also investigate other energy sources as possible alternatives to oil, according to Mr Abdulla

Al-Ghamim, the Minister for Electricity.

He told reporters that preparations for the nuclear scheme would start over the next two years, but gave no indication what other country or countries might be involved.

Mr Al-Ghamim, speaking to journalists in Kuwait, dealt mainly with the recent world energy conference at Detroit which he attended. He said the United States had diverted conference debates away from matters at issue and turned them into a political forum.

Inflation and a degenerating economic situation had created a depression in the United States, he said.

He added: "President Ford put all the blame on the producing countries for raising oil prices. . . . The Zionist press blamed the Arab oil states for the energy crisis."

But during the Detroit debates, Mr Al-Ghamim added, "it was found that America was the leading country in extravagant use of oil." —Reuters.

Xerox anti-trust settlement plan

Stamford, Connecticut, Oct. 9.—Xerox Corporation said it had reached a proposed agreement to settle a Federal Trade Commission anti-trust complaint against it.

Under the terms of the agreement, Xerox said the company would be required to make available certain existing technology on its existing office copier products to its United States patent licensees, excluding International Business Machines Corporation, for five years. The information would be for American use only.

The company also said it would be required to make certain modifications in its volume discount pricing policies. —AP-Dow Jones.

Offshore oil jobs for Mersey

The campaign to secure the maximum involvement of the North-West in supplying and servicing the offshore oil industry is already starting to produce results.

Various projects associated with the offshore operations could lead to 2,000 new jobs in

the Merseyside area alone during the next 12 months, according to the Merseyside Industrial Development Office.

Four companies are reported to be negotiating for sites in the Liverpool docks complex, part of the land released by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

Lever call for state bank to aid industry

A government investment bank to make long-term loans to private enterprise was proposed yesterday by Mr Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

"It would encourage effort in industry especially in the exports field," he said at Labour's north west headquarters in Salford, Lancashire.

Whitehall sources said that was "proceeding on a number of contingency plans for assisting the company sector, and an investment bank along the lines proposed by Mr Lever is one of these possibilities."

The big banks had a lukewarm response to the plan. "We would have some reservations concerning the need for a new institution to channel funds into industry bearing in mind the existence of Finance for Industry, a spokesman for the Banking Information Service said.

"This was established last year, bringing together the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and the Finance Corporation for Industry, who already act in this way," he added.

Mr Lever earlier said his CIB "would make immediate long-term funds available through a banking system to private enterprise. It would encourage effort in industry, especially in the exports field. Substantial funds would be made available on special terms to different parts of the country in accordance with their particular needs."

A draft scheme for the floating of an EEC loan designed to transfer petrodollars to member countries with balance-of-payments problems was approved today by the European Commission.

It will be sent to member governments for discussion by their finance ministers at a meeting due in October 21.

According to Commission sources, the scheme would provide the legal basis for the setting up of an orderly mechanism for the floating of any future loans.

The Commission feels that the system it is proposing should be of a permanent nature.

Centre to test cement needed

From Mr A. J. Harris
Sir, The failure of a structure built with high-alumina cement has caused alarm concerning the soundness of many other buildings so built. Extensive testing is under way.

I plead for the setting up of a centre at which the results of these tests would be collected and a situation report kept for inspection.

The tests are of two sorts: non-destructive on materials in situ and destructive on samples or whole members cut from the structure. The latter are more troublesome and costly and hence less often carried out, but they are also more revealing and reliable.

By the collation of all results, the former could be better calibrated against the latter and their credibility determined. Thus time and money would be saved, and the gravity of the problem could be better appraised.

The present centre would provide fact, not advice, and responsibility for structural decisions would remain where it is now. Confidentiality of information would have to be respected.

Very few research bodies have concerned themselves with this cement, whence much of the trouble. The Building Research Establishment is one such. Who better to set up and operate this report centre?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. HARRIS,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Department of Civil Engineering,
London SW7.

Scheme for EEC loan to transfer petro-dollars

From David Cross
Brussels, Oct. 9

A draft scheme for the floating of an EEC loan designed to transfer petrodollars to member countries with balance-of-payments problems was approved today by the European Commission.

It will be sent to member governments for discussion by their finance ministers at a meeting due in October 21.

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The Commission feels that the system it is proposing should be of a permanent nature.

The Anglo-Indonesian Plantations Limited

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar with effect from 3rd September, 1974.

All correspondence and documents for registration regarding the Share and Stock Registers should in future be sent to:—

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
The Causeway,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing,
West Sussex, BN12 6DA.
Tel: Worthing 502541—(STD Code 0903)

D B W Chambers (Director) Arbutnot Agencies Limited (Secretaries)

J. E. ENGLAND & SONS (WELLINGTON) LIMITED

The Directors of J. E. England & Sons (Wellington) Ltd. have declared an Interim Dividend of 282p per Share for the year ending 31st December 1974 payable 31st January 1975.

Interim Report for the six months ended 30th June 1974

1974	1973
Unaudited profit before taxation	£77,995
	£22,065

The half year's figures should not be taken as giving a reliable indication of those for the full year.



There's more to Jerez than just sherry

In Spain we are known by millions. Yet here in London most people associate our name with Sherry. In fact, we are part of a very large and successful business which owns twelve different banks. Some months ago we took a big and important step by opening a Jerez branch here in London offering a full range of services to individuals and companies. The Jerez team is fully capable of moving fast and effectively handling facilities such as current and deposit accounts, loans and advances, finance for trade overseas, foreign exchange transactions and acceptance credits. But it's no good being this flexible unless you also have the size and strength to satisfy customer needs. That's why at Jerez we count ourselves fortunate to be so well placed to meet any kind of challenge. We are after all part of Rumasa, the £350 million Spanish Group which has grown into one of the country's most notable successes during the short span of 18 years. It all adds up to some pretty convincing plusses. Why not take advantage of them by contacting our local General Manager and his team of experts in London AT ANY TIME. It could be that they will be able to provide the solution to any finance problem you have.

Banco de Jerez S.A.

27 Wood Street, London EC 2V 2AL Telephone 01-406 4207-4230
Telex 681254 Cable-SHERRY BANK LON-DOEN



PART OF THE RUMASA GROUP

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Currys' margins are cut to shreds

Mark & Spencer may have had good cause to complain about government enforced cuts in gross margins, but in the case of Currys there was never any question of the group being up against its reference levels in the first place.

Fierce competition from the discounters and, more particularly, the department stores has led to a sharp fall in the emphasis on shifting stocks (happily ahead of the three-day week) in the face of stagnant demand—the rise in cash sales roughly offsetting the slump in credit trading.

So, throw in the rise in general costs too and we have first-half profits on straight cash sales down from £3.2m to mere £455,000. But that, fortunately, is only a part of the story. With new credit sales falling away and last December's new regulations bringing in the average maturity of credit business quite sharply, outstanding balances at the end of the half year are down by around a seventh (on the previous year) and there is a net release from the unsecured profit provision of £172m.

How far the position will recover over the rest of the year clearly depends on any government action and Christmas spending. Recently, however, sales have been picking up again, while the upping of prices by the competition has allowed a recovery in gross margins, and a combination of stock and staff reduction has helped ease pressure on the net. Where all this will leave Currys by the year end is anyone's guess, but at least there is the consolation of a strong balance sheet, while the yield on a maintained dividend would be 12 per cent at last night's closing price of 38p.

Interim 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £8.9m
Sales £41.5m (£35.8m)
Pre-tax profits £2.17m (£3.15m)

Christies

Costs are the joker

A 28 per cent interim pre-tax downturn on the back of a 12 per cent increase in turnover is the kind of result that could do Christies International's stock market standing some damage. Here, after all, appeared to be a classic gear situation, where at commission rates mean that sales volume, whether inflation or volume inspired, would have a disproportionately large effect on profits.

ow marked this effect has been in the past is clear enough on the escalation in margins on 6 per cent in 1969 to 42 per cent in the first half of last year. Since the trading background as continued healthy, there is as yet nothing to forebode the severity of the setback to margins—down to 27 per cent—and the market's surprise was simply apparent in an 8p fall in 16 shares to 37p. With only one week of the October-July selling season still to go, Christies was reporting sales values up by 31 per cent to £44.3m and the number of sales up from 397 in 1972/73 to 488. And, although buyers were taking a more selective view, prices in general maintained firm throughout the period.

Judging by the £1.4m of net sh in the balance sheet at the signing of the year, investment income is probably somewhat higher than last year's £3,000, which suggests that the trading expenses have risen sharply indeed, possibly by as much as a half.

In short, Christies' apparent built-in inflation proofing has served to protect it from inflation, and that must prompt me to question the wisdom of the rumours about the rating of shares which are still lying at 61 times last year's earnings. With a wealth tax kicking in the background as



Mr David Breeden, chairman of Wilmot Breeden: interim dividend cut.

well, the glamour image is beginning to look decidedly tarnished.

Interim: 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £7.58m
Sales £3.06m (£2.74m)
Pre-tax profits £0.84m (£1.17m)
Dividend gross 1.12p

Wilmot Breeden

Energy crisis damage

At first sight it is hard to reconcile what happened at Wilmot Breeden with the company's view in April that it had come through the three-day week relatively well. Now, reporting interim profits down from £2.2m to only £0.76m, Wilmot blames the effects of the energy crisis both at home and overseas, and, of course, reverberations from the three-day week.

In fact, in the confusion that followed the three-day week when industry went bell for leather to make up lost ground and replenish stocks it was easy enough to be optimistic. As we now know, it proved to be something of a false dawn, and in the case of Wilmot and other major suppliers to the motor industry industrial disputes throughout the spring and summer at motor companies have caused severe problems.

All this helps to explain that sales were static in value terms, and of course sharply down in volume. The position overseas was almost as difficult. In France, where Wilmot has a substantial business, the motor industry was plunged into uncertainty by the energy crisis, and Wilmot's schedules were cut accordingly. Since then there has been some improvement, but at this stage Wilmot has cut the interim dividend and is making cautious noises about the final 27p, yielding 13 per cent assuming no cut in the final, the shares are likely to stay in the cold for some time.

Interim: 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £5.6m
Sales £27m (£27.4m)
Pre-tax profits £0.76m (£2.2m)
Dividend gross 0.97p (1.17p)

FMC

A farmers' bid

There is a formidable farming stake in FMC, and one which may well swing behind the NFU bid for special reasons, but that should not deter other share-

holders from questioning the generosity of the bid.

The NFU, after all, makes no secret of the fact that it feels FMC is a quoted public company, has tended to put shareholders' interests before those of farmers. Whether or not this is valid criticism, the essential point is that the NFU believes it will be able to reorganize the meat markets more to the farmers' advantage if it resumes control of FMC.

One might expect the farming interests behind the NFU, which is underwriting the bid, to pay a significant premium in this case. Yet, though the 65p a share cash compares with a price of 32p in the market a few days ago, this is hardly a fair yardstick given the economic climate. As it happens, the offer price is precisely what FMC was floated at 12 years ago though on an inflation adjusted basis the two figures would look very different. The £6.5m total value of the bid has to be seen moreover against net assets of around £9m, including a high proportion of land and buildings. And, for what it is worth, the historic p/e is just 4.

If the farming interests which have held around 30 per cent of the FMC equity (in addition to the 40.9 per cent held by the NFU) since the company was floated should swing behind the bid, it will probably not be for financial reasons alone. The NFU is promising to improve its production and marketing lot via FMC. However, FMC will probably have something to say about the wisdom of "farmer control" and all shareholders may be wise to ensure they attach importance to pure investment considerations in this case.

LMS

After the write-downs

An unhappy tale emerged yesterday from Sir Max Rayne's London Merchant Securities, and that the shares closed unchanged at 19p can be taken simply to the market having taken due heed of the role of the interim statement and done its sums accordingly. Inevitably, there was a slow-down in property income following the freeze on rent reviews. But what caused the damage, in addition to a £710,000 charge against profits for interest and to be something of a false dawn, and in the case of Wilmot and other major suppliers to the motor industry industrial disputes throughout the spring and summer at motor companies have caused severe problems.

While some profits, although undisclosed at this stage, have been included arising from the sale of the Hay's Wharf stake to St Martins (with more to come following the Kuwait bid), the investments in Beaverbrook and Edward Bates have proved an expensive venture. Provision has been made in the accounts to write the two stakes down by £1m, which, after the inclusion of a development property net surplus of £4m and writing off £2.5m in North America, reduces net asset value from £47m to around £41m.

Much obviously depends on today's events as to the future, but a useful indication would be to include in the accounts, due next week, the extent to which borrowings have dropped since March. The shares are unattractive.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalization £10m
Sales £54.7m (£56.9m)
Pre-tax profits £5.61m (£6.46m)
Earnings per share 2.28p (4.47p)
Dividend gross 0.95p (2.50p)

"C'est décidé. Donc ce sera fait." The words fell from the lips of the young technocrat without a trace of irony.

Perhaps his older and more experienced colleagues would have added an "en principe"—the traditional and reluctant homage which Frenchmen pay to the existence of a real world that does not always conform to rational expectations.

None the less, the remark conveys pretty accurately the mood of the French administration under new political leadership, as it confronts the world economic crisis.

The particular decision he referred to was the nuclear energy programme adopted in March this year—a programme so ambitious that it has met with some scepticism among energy experts on this side of the Channel.

Thirteen nuclear power stations with light-water reactors are to be started during 1974 and 1975, and the government expects to keep up "approximately the same rhythm"—that is six or seven 900-megawatt reactors a year—until the end of the decade.

Besides this, work is going ahead on EURODIF, the joint French-Belgian-Italian-Spanish separation factory on the Rhône, which the French expect by 1980 to produce enough enriched uranium by the diffusion process to fuel a hundred power stations; and in the middle of next year work will start on Superphénix, a 1,200-megawatt fast breeder reactor to be built with German and Italian participation.

The French are clearly thrilled by the success of their 250-megawatt prototype fast breeder, Phénix, which last year overtook its cousin at Dounreay and since the beginning of this year has actually been connected to the national electricity grid. They regard the invention of a reactor which produces its own fuel as

a kind of philosopher's stone of the modern age—the answer to the Club of Rome's warning that the world will run out of natural resources.

But they admit that this technology is still largely an unknown quantity, and that insuperable obstacles to its commercial exploitation may yet be encountered. (For instance, environmental hazards, although they argue that a priori fast breeders should be less dangerous than the present generation of reactors, because they do not involve pressure.)

The French Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique has close contacts with Britain's Atomic Energy Authority, and its officials (unlike some French political leaders) speak with respect of the Dounreay reactor. Clearly they would welcome Franco-British cooperation on the next stage of fast breeder technology.

In any case the industrial dimension (3,000 to 4,000 tonnes) will not be reached for another 10 or 15 years.

In the meantime France is relying mainly on light-water reactors (most of them built by Westinghouse) and some on the General Electric boiling water model) to enable her to cut down oil imports.

Of course, even this is only a short-term prospect. In the short term oil consumption is expected to rise from 15,000 million tons in 1973 to 23,000 or 25,000 million in 1980-82.

Only then will it start to drop sharply, to 4,000 or 5,000 million in 1985. ("Perhaps zero", one high official said, dreaming no doubt of electric or electronic cars.)

The French argue that the decision to go all out for nuclear energy is imposed on them by their lack of alternative resources such as Britain's rich coal seams and North Sea oil. They are acutely aware of their dependence on

imported oil, which constrains them to what some of them regard as *des actes de bassesse* (bowing and scraping) towards the oil producers.

Paradoxically, this policy has led them to opt out of contingency plans for oil-sharing between consumer countries. They seem reluctant to believe that America would really share its supplies in a crisis, and fear that the only effect of these American-sponsored plans will be to antagonize the producers, and especially the Arabs.

But for the price increase, France would now be running a trade surplus, instead of a deficit of more than 2,000m francs per month.

The government is determined to get the foreign trade account back into balance by the end of next year. To some extent this can be helped by developing home resources, but the scope here seems small: some pit closures are being postponed, and there will probably be some expansion of hydro-electric capacity.

More important are measures to reduce energy consumption and, above all, the effort to cover the deficit by increasing exports. According to the finance minister, M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the government aims to reduce oil imports by 10 per cent in 1975.

"We believe we can do it by slowing down economic growth, by economizing on household fuel, and by speed limits on the motorways," he said.

In fact the projected growth rate remains surprisingly high by present international standards: 4.8 per cent this year, and 4 to 4.2 per cent next year. But officials point out that this in fact represents "the biggest slowdown for 15 years" since during that period the annual average has been 6 per cent.

They argue that to slow more abruptly than this would be dangerous because the working population is still growing by 0.6 to 0.7 per cent per year, and per capita productivity is also still growing faster in France than abroad.

In other words, unemployment remains a bogey. Government statements invariably list "the maintenance of employment" among the aims of economic policy, alongside the fight against inflation and the restoration of the trade balance.

But the Prime Minister recently made it clear that reducing inflation had the first priority, and full employment only the second. The present rate of inflation—14 to 15 per cent—is admitted to be "no longer tolerable", especially as it is twice that of West Germany, France's biggest commercial partner.

Employers argue that government policies over the past 15 years have in fact created an acute labour shortage in France, even though France has one of the most generous unemployment benefit systems in Europe, which should have made it possible to allow a certain slack in the economy and so increase mobility of labour.

Ministers are not saying so in public, but they are clearly counting on the fear of unemployment to moderate wage demands, and the fear of bankruptcy to moderate firms' willingness to pay.

They are discreetly strengthening price controls, but fight shy of any direct attempt to control incomes. Instead they are introducing an anti-inflation tax (*taxe conjoncturelle*) which is rather more sophisticated than the Liberal proposal in Britain.

It is based on a calculation of the average firm's increase in production, plus a government approved level of price rises. Any company whose total "value added" has risen by more than the amount result-

ing from this calculation is presumed to have raised its prices by more than the permitted average, unless it can prove otherwise.

The "superfluous" fraction of value added will therefore be taxed at a punitive and steeply progressive rate, and the proceeds put in a special non-interest-bearing account which can be used to improve the rate of interest paid to small savers.

The money will be returned to the firms concerned if and when inflation has been successfully checked. (The criterion for this is not yet definitely decided but will probably be a period of three consecutive months in each of which the retail price index rises by less than 0.5 per cent.)

The firm remains free to spend its legitimate income in wage increases or otherwise as it sees fit. Consequently this tax will be at best a very indirect form of wage control.

However, government statistics show that recent wage increases have been financed, not by increased corporate incomes but mainly by borrowing abroad. The government apparently hopes that in the months to come the cooler economic climate will discourage firms from adopting this expedient, and that the labour market will be slack enough for wage-earners no longer to exert the same bargaining strength.

To understand this one must remember that trade unions have a much smaller membership in France than in Britain, and the behaviour of the workforce is less predictable. The government probably expects some kind of confrontation with the unions in the new year, but believes that the political and economic atmosphere will be such that it can win.

Edward Mortimer

Price complexities in the world sugar crisis

Hugh Clayton and John Woodland review the background to the shortage

Since prices in countries which account for about 80 per cent of world consumption, including the communist nations, are regulated in some way or another, and have not been allowed to rise sufficiently to have a significant impact on demand, it was inevitable that any tightness in supplies should bring about great price pressure on the marginal quantities entering world trade.

That this international trade, which accounts for less than a quarter of world consumption, is a marginal market, and therefore suffers from exaggerated price effects both up

and down, has been the commonplace of sugar economists. Normally a price explosion in the world market as that witnessed in sugar, would trigger off a boom in production. But this has been quite mild.

Dr Viton restricted specific national production of his case to the United States on the ground that this was sufficiently remote from his audience not to arouse their wrath.

But the British experience provides a useful illustration, with the paradox of farmers muttering about reducing beet sowings in the 1975 season because of a low return, while the farmers' unions, supported by Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, press for reversal of the EEC Commission's ban on expansion of the British beet acreage.

Domestic expansion is governed by domestic prices and not those for export. In the cane-producing nations the profitability of growing sugar, although it has risen, has suffered in comparison with that of other crops.

Dr Viton gave a warning yesterday against assuming that high world prices will persist indefinitely. He suggested that the average world market price in the next five years would be less than £150 a ton, or less

than half of the record figures registered on the London market this year.

Although there was little chance that new production could be brought in at this price it would be foolish to overlook the possibility of a bumper world crop. "Rising productivity is in the long run the best guarantee of survival", he added.

This is the world context in which Britain is about to dismantle the traditional Commonwealth Sugar Agreement and embark on a sugar policy that is fully absorbed by the EEC.

Last month M Lardinois, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, said that after March 1 next year the Community and not the British Government would be responsible for the supply of sugar to the United Kingdom.

He unveiled a plan to channel Britain's traditional supplies from Commonwealth cane producers through the Community at a subsidized price.

He said nothing about the claims that other community members might make on such supplies. Britain after all is not the only EEC country in which there is a danger of under-use of refining capacity.

INTERIM STATEMENT

Legal & General Interim Report-1974

The Society reports the following premium income figures for the first half of 1974 and has declared an interim dividend for 1974 as shown below.

	First 6 months 1974 £m	First 6 months 1973 £m	Whole of 1973 £m
Long-term business			
New Premiums*			
Pensions	21.8	13.0	28.0
Ordinary Life	5.5	5.9	11.4
Short-term business			
Written Premiums*			
UK	15.1	13.2	24.2
Overseas	11.8	8.0	17.6

*Excludes the Victoria Insurance Co. Ltd.

INTERIM DIVIDEND—An interim dividend of 1.6p per share (1973: 1.5p) has been declared, payable on 2 January 1975. With the associated tax credit of 0.788p per share this is equivalent to 2.388p (1973: 2.143p).

Copies of the full Interim Report are available from the Secretary, John Neill, at Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria St., London, EC4N 4TP.



Business Diary: Bull market in Stock Exchange artists

chie Gunn, an associate member of brokers Keith, Bayley, Gers & Co., was the star yesterday when many other Stock Exchange men, a pitch, however, was not the Exchange but in the uppers' Hall, and he was dealing in shares but in pottery paintings.

Gunn was celebrating his first "as chairman" of the Stock Exchange Art Society in fine line. When Ross Davies, Business Diary's art critic, told him, he was busily piling the books and accepting cheques on exhibitors' behalf during a very successful day of the society's 56th art exhibition.

He said the society had been worried that there would be a fall in the number of exhibitors this year after the savage pruning of recent months. The event, not only is the most almost as good as last year's record show, but by the lunchtime City art lovers forked out more than £450, half the total for last year.

There is little fire and brimstone to be seen—certainly no snapshots of the artist Goya by such as Richard Thompson, the Exchange's official assignee, and the man who presides after a hammering.

Dorothy Duval appears to have cornered the topicality market. She is showing a "Lombro Still Life", a group of cognac and sherry bottles against a newspaper, whose main story asks "The Lombro Game: Could TV Do It Better?"

Evidently a devotee of "balance", the artist has—at £50, half the "Lombro" price—a "Unions Still Life". This one looks like a pound of sprats—or are they red berries?—lying across a Daily Express, whose splash story proclaims "Unions Back Cboos Call".

A good half of the contributors are women. This, Gunn explains, is because membership of the art society is open to the female relatives of Stock Exchange members and staff. In fact, the picture that Business Diary liked best was of a woman by a woman—Nancy Longman's "Girl in Blue". This shows with a rather fierce competence a sulky blonde reclining in a powder blue smock. Her expression is just what might be expected as a broker husband says: "Look, dear, the way things are, I charge, account has got to go."

The exhibition continues until 4 pm tomorrow.



"Work it out—I'm voting for the social contract, my wife for a statutory wages policy and my son for 9 per cent mortgages."

The current issue of POEU, the journal of the Post Office Engineering Union, carries an article describing the endorsement of the social contract at last month's TUC Congress. The article is entitled The Contract is Forged.

Pit foray

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, was on dangerous ground during his

visit to Yorkshire yesterday. Not, of course, that his lunchtime audience—members of the Institute of Directors—could fail to sympathize with him in his troubles in selling to his labour force, the miners, a productivity-linked incentive scheme.

However, it was the miners of Yorkshire who were chiefly responsible for blowing a very large raspberry at the NCB's carefully-concocted pit productivity scheme.

Sir Derek confined his foray

into hostile territory to a low-key flying visit to Sheffield and to a pit near Wakefield, both comfortably distant from Barnsley, where Arthur Scargill holds court over the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Scargill, the Yorkshire NUM president, was the prime mover behind the NUM executive's rejection of the productivity incentive scheme, which the coal board claims could have been worth up to £12.50 a week for some miners.

Scargill has since looked a lot happier, having now made a total recovery from his defeat at the NUM annual conference in July, when his motion seeking to put firm figures on this year's annual pay claim was defeated in favour of a vaguer and more moderate resolution.

When the productivity scheme first came up before the NUM executive, Scargill could only find two supporters for outright rejection. But by last Thursday, when the issue was finally decided, the Scargill-led left wing balance had scored a resounding victory. The disarrayed moderates could only scrape together four votes in support of the plan.

Scargill's cause was however helped by the absence at last week's executive of Scargill's number one number one, Len Clarke, the chief tactician of the Nottinghamshire area moderates. He was on holiday in Spain at the time.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stronger margins at Pork Farms after bumper opening half

By Tony May
Having passed the £1m mark for the first time last year, Pork Farms has made a fine start to 1974-75: pre-tax earnings jumped from £461,000 to £625,000 for the half to August 31. Turnover for the period rose from £6.99m to £8.91m, indicating an increase in margins from 6.39 to 7.01 per cent.

On net profits of £300,000, compared with £221,000, the interim dividend is being raised from 3.75p to 4.95p. Earnings a share went up to 9p, against 7.1p.

Mr David Samworth, chairman, told shareholders in June that the group's expansion plans would continue for the current year on several fronts. First the board aimed to increase its share of the pie, sausage, and cooked

meal market under its own house brands. The second aim was to extend the activities of the Porkdown subsidiary. Mr Samworth said that this company was in its infancy, but sales and profits were already well up in budget. Thirdly, growth this year would come from the vastly increased volume of products due to be made by the group for sale by leading retailers under their own label.

Speaking of the finance for this expansion, Mr Samworth said that while the acquisition and investment programme had meant a big rise in borrowings in 1973-74, cash flow was in line with forecasts. This, together with bank facilities available, was adequate for the board's plans.

Slowdown in final leg but S Lyles at peak £1.27m

The initial costs of its new Calder Bank mills and steps taken to limit some margins prevented S. Lyles, carpet yarn spinners and dyers, reaching its objective of a final leg matching the first in its second year as a public company.

In the opening phase of the last financial period to June 30, profits soared 71 per cent to £701,000 but over the final six months they were 10 per cent off, at £576,000, to give overall growth of 21 per cent to a record £1.27m pre-tax. Turnover was up from £5.2m to £8m, also a peak figure.

Mr John Lyles, chairman, says that in the second half the group almost maintained the value of its United Kingdom turnover, in spite of a slowdown in trade, and at the same time considerably increased exports which, overall, were doubled in volume and much more than doubled in value.

Adverse market trends may hit Orion

With premiums written for the first six months rising from £7.6m to £7.7m, end underwriting profits going up from £560,000 to £580,000, taxable profits at Orion Insurance rose from £1.3m to £1.8m. Underwriting profits include half the estimated surplus of the marine and aviation underwriting accounts due for assessment at December 31. Investment income accounted for £1.4m (against £904,000) of profits. The dividend goes up from 2.5p to 2.6p.

The board expects a reasonable surplus after assessment of the 1972 marine and aviation accounts at December 31, and the 1973 figures are developing a similar pattern. However, the 1974 accounts may be influenced by present adverse market trends. The fire and accident, and the non-marine (London and special reinsurance) revenue accounts will produce a loss for the full year, but it should be less than that incurred in 1973.

Jackson & Steeple
Falling back from the half-way point, when profits were doubled, the pre-tax of Jackson & Steeple, cotton weavers, added 47 per cent to £543,000 for the year. Turnover rose from £3.2m to £4.5m and earnings from 19.2p to 21.5p a share. The total dividend is 3.15p against 3p.

Smaller loss by Newall Tool
Peterborough-based Newall Machine Tool, which made a pre-tax loss of £730,000 in 1973, has reduced this to £280,000 in the year to March 31 last. Sales were down slightly to £4.2m to £3.9m and again there is to be no ordinary dividend. The board says that most sections

of the group have full order books and they hope that the full results for the current year will disclose an overall improvement though prevailing United Kingdom and world economic problems make any forward predictions most difficult.

Final reduced by Highlight

"Disappointing" results from Highlight Sports, makers of leisure wear, are nonetheless a record for the year to May 19, helped by a recovery in the newly-acquired Joocraig (bought in 1972).

Taxable profits of the group were £390,000, against £355,000 for the preceding 59 weeks, on turnover up from £10.4m to £14.6m. But the final dividend is cut from 3p to 1.15p reducing the total from 4.12p to 2.58p. The attributable profit balance emerges at £309,000 (£270,000), or 6.05p (4.92p) a share.

Maynards top £1m
All the signs at half-time were that Maynards, the confectionery group, would attain peak profits of over £1m for the year to June 30. In the event profits were returned at £1,009,000 showing an increase of 13 per cent on the £893,000 for 1972-73. Exceptional items of £69,000 against £100,000 are added and after tax of £541,000 against £442,000 the "net" works out to £537,000 against £551,000. The total dividend is brought up to 22p from 21p with a final payment of 15.74p against 15p.

Macallan's fresh peak
Full-year profits similar to last year's record £458,000 were forecast at half-time by Macallan-Glenlivet, the malt whisky distillers. In the event for the year to July 31, pre-tax

profits are at a peak £481,000 from turnover up from £1.2m to £1.6m. The total dividend is being raised from 4.98p to 5.23p. The board says 1974-75 is expected to be one of high production, but any financial progress stemming from this will be restricted by the reduction of percentage profit margins.

Kamunting payout

The Treasury has given consent for Kamunting Tin Dredging to increase its dividend for last term from 6.78p to 8.84p. At pre-tax level profits soared 40 per cent to £711,000. Not included in this is an exchange adjustment from currency realignments amounting to £45,000 (£46,000) which has been transferred to reserves.

Dale Electric

Following up last year's record profit of £788,000 Dale Electric International has increased its interim profits from £375,000 to £505,000 before tax. This was achieved on turnover up from £2.42m to £2.92m. The dividend goes ahead from 2p to 2.4p, and earnings a share from 4.14p to 5p.

T. & N. in France
For about £650,000, Turner & Newall is buying 82 per cent of Ets Dagard et Fils, which makes pre-fabricated doors and panels for cold store insulation. The deal gives Turner & Newall a base in Europe and additional expertise in the insulation field.

Lloyds Industries
A disappointing 40 per cent drop to £233,000 is reported in mid-term pre-tax profits of Lloyds Industries International, which specialises in car-care products. Yet sales are well maintained at £3.7m.

Wilkinson to accept new Weyroc offer

Because of a change of policy to concentrate its board material activities in Europe, Swedish Match is making a firm offer of about £3m cash for 75 per cent of the equity of United Kingdom business units of Weyroc, the house-making offshoot of Wilkinson Match which is accepting.

The Swedish group is not now interested in Aircrow-Weyroc Canada, and Wilkinson is talking with potential purchasers of partners in North America. There are options on both sides for the sale of the other 25 per cent of Weyroc. The previous offer valued 75 per cent of the UK and Canadian Weyroc at £4.3m. In addition the £3m cash, Swedish Match undertakes that Weyroc will repay its existing loan of £3.5m from Wilkinson by five equal annual payments.

G Kent complain at delay over bid decision

With General Electric Co's £5.8m cash bid for George Kent, the instrument maker, due to close today at 3 pm, the Kent camp was complaining last night that the Government had still not committed its 24 per cent stake.

The alternative for Kent, and the proposal which has the support of the group's workforce, is a scheme put up by the Swiss electrical company, Brown Boveri, to inject £6.5m into a new company, Brown Boveri Kent, including the Government's 24 per cent stake.

While the GEC camp was unwilling to accept a decision on whether its bid will be extended beyond today's deadline, it is assumed that this will be the case. Kent's point yesterday was that the Government's delay in giving a decision, which any shareholder is entitled to do, was adding to the uncertainty of Kent shareholders.

Wall Street

New York, Oct. 9.—Wall Street today gave a cool reception to President Ford's anti-inflation speech, according to dealers. Share prices declined moderately through the first hour but, by mid-session, part of the loss had evaporated.

There appeared to be disappointment that Mr Ford's proposal did not go far enough, said one analyst, but selling was scattered. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which had been down more than seven points at one time, showed a net loss of about three points at mid-day.

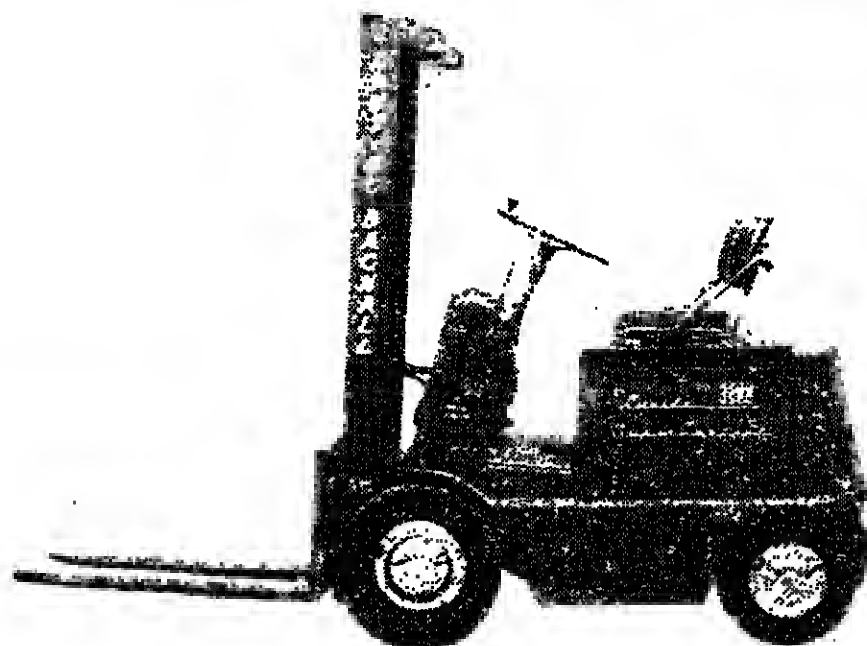
Yesterday, the Industrial Average declined 4.93 to 602.63. Volume totaled 15,460,000 compared with 15,000,000 on Monday.

Canadian Prices
Abnati 21 1/2
Ald. Steel 21 1/2
Bell Tel. 21 1/2
Can. Inv. Fd. 41 1/2
Com. Int. 21 1/2
Dunlop 21 1/2
Eaton 21 1/2
Gen. Elec. 21 1/2
Hwy. Bldg. 21 1/2
Imperial 21 1/2
Int. Paper 21 1/2
J. & J. 21 1/2
Kings 21 1/2
L. & L. 21 1/2
M. & L. 21 1/2
N. & L. 21 1/2
O. & L. 21 1/2
P. & L. 21 1/2
R. & L. 21 1/2
S. & L. 21 1/2
T. & L. 21 1/2
U. & L. 21 1/2
V. & L. 21 1/2
W. & L. 21 1/2
X. & L. 21 1/2
Y. & L. 21 1/2
Z. & L. 21 1/2

NY silver slumps by 20 cents
New York, Oct. 9.—COMEX SILVER futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢. Spot October silver was 1.00¢. Silver futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢. Silver futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢.

COTTON—Futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢. Spot October cotton was 1.00¢. Cotton futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢. Cotton futures, closed with loss of 0.88¢ at 1.00¢.

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Stock markets

Food shares weaken

The stock market suffered a severe reversal of the trend of the previous day, when publication of opinion-poll predictions of an increasing swing towards Labour brought a sharp fall in share prices.

The opinion poll forecasts were published in two major daily newspapers, and equities were sharply lower within the first hour of trading. There were no buyers willing to go against this trend, and so the slide in prices continued throughout the session. By the close, the FT index had left the 200 mark well behind again, to close 9.3 off at 191.9, and the Times index, at 74.49, had lost 2.45 points.

Turnover remained relatively light, although an increase in the day's recorded bargain total, at £8.32, disclosed a hectic drive to close positions ahead of Election Day.

Also upstaging equities was the prediction of a substantial fall in food prices on the heels of the previous day's report from Marks & Spencer, fuelled the City's renewed fears that inflation remains the major hazard for the United Kingdom.

There was a further rise in the investment dollar premium, which added the day's net 3 points higher at 71.7 per cent.

Among losses were ICI, 7p off at 181p, Distillers 3p off at 85p,

Courtaulds 3p off at 68p and Becham 4p down at 131p.

With Wall Street unimpressed by President Ford's anti-inflationary package, there was no support yesterday for United States-oriented stocks. Kiosco fell 7p to 175p, while late falls in oil shares left BP 10p lower at 256p.

The warning from Unilever took toll of food company shares such as J. Bibby, Cavenham and Tate & Lyle, but Unilever, still suffering from predictions of a reduced sugar crop, British Sugar fell again.

Particularly weak were the home banks and insurance issues which figured prominently in Tuesday's rally. Shares in Slater Walker lost 7p to 61p, and among the major lending banks, the National Westminster were 15p lower at 120p. Smaller losses among insurances left Commercial Union at 81p.

Gold shares remained firm, as the easing of credit restrictions in the West Indies were 15p lower at 120p. Smaller losses among insurances left Commercial Union at 81p.

Concern at the economic outlook and disquiet at the suggestion that the public sector's requirements in the present fiscal year will be much above expectations was responsible for a further easing of gilt-edged securities. Selling was continuous and prices throughout the market closed at the lowest of the day.

Latest dividends

dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies.					
Company	Ord	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
Adm par values)		sgd	date	total	year
Admiral (25p) Int	3.5	25/11	—	6.84	—
Admiral (25p) Int	1.11	31/10	—	1.82	—
Admiral (25p) Int	1.03	0.91	—	1.82	—
Admiral (25p) Int	2.4	2.00	—	5.5	—
Admiral (25p) Int	1.86	15/11	3.73	3.07	—
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Appointments Vacant also on page 27

GENERAL VACANCIES

THAMES WATER AUTHORITY THAMES CONSERVANCY DIVISION MATHEMATICIAN/PROGRAMMER

£2,061-£3,018 or £3,018-£3,750 plus threshold payment

Applications are invited for a newly created post in the Water Resources Section (Engineering) of the Thames Conservancy Division at a salary on the Professional Main Grade Scale, starting point to be determined according to age, qualifications and experience.

The person appointed will take charge of a small data control group which acts as the administrative interface between the Engineer's Department and the Divisional Computer Section, which operates an ICL 1902A with twin 30-Mbit Discs.

Responsibilities include the creation and maintenance of computer files of hydro-metric data which must be compatible with a comprehensive system of data acquisition by telemetry which is expected to go live in approximately 18 months' time.

The position would suit a Mathematician with appropriate postgraduate qualifications or experience in statistics. Experience in high-level programming is essential and ICL 1900 experience would be a considerable advantage. An interest in hydrology and hydrological modelling would also be an asset.

Removal expenses and disturbance allowances are payable where applicable. Scheme of flexible working hours based on a 35-hour, 5-day week; leave 4 to 4½ weeks per annum; staff restaurant, social club.

Applications, in writing, giving details of age, qualifications, experience and the names of two referees, should reach the Divisional Manager, Thames Conservancy Division, Thames Water Authority, Nugent House, Vauxhall Road, Reading RG1 8DB, as soon as possible.

THAMES WATER AUTHORITY THAMES CONSERVANCY DIVISION

ENGINEERING SCIENTIST/ENGINEER

(Ref. WRCE/C)

Applications are invited for the above post in the Water Resources Section of the Division.

The position would suit a Graduate in Engineering or Engineering Science with a bias towards electronics and computer programming.

The person appointed would join a group, within the Communications and Electronics Section, responsible for the establishment and maintenance of hydrometric data files and technical data preparation. The group also acts as the administrative interface between the Engineer's Department and the Authority's ICL 1902A.

An electrical Analogue Model has been designed and built in the section for groundwater studies and this is being progressively enlarged and developed using a PDP8E as the cycle control.

Additionally a contract has just been let for a comprehensive computer controlled Data Acquisition System by radio telemetry to cover the whole of the Thames Basin, initially west of London.

The successful applicant will be expected to be involved in, and contribute to, all these aspects and the post offers considerable intellectual freedom.

Salary, dependent on age, experience and qualifications will be in the range of £2,061 to £3,018 per annum, plus approved threshold payments, with good prospects of promotion to £3,018 to £3,750 per annum on gaining Corporate Membership or equivalent.

Applications giving details of age, qualifications and present salary should be addressed to the Divisional Manager, quoting reference WRCE/C, to arrive as soon as possible. (No forms.)

Nugent House, Vauxhall Road, Reading RG1 8DB.

J.F.L. CITY OFFICE

ring Patrice Ware or Mary Whittaker:
247 1388

PERSONNEL OFFICER

required for well-known Merchant Bank. Directly responsible to the Personnel Manager, she will handle recruitment of female staff and male non-executive staff. Previous personnel experience in a service industry or in Banking/Finance essential. Flair, personal charm and outgoing personality are also important qualities. 25-28, Salary £2,700 with regular review.

TRAINING OFFICER

He will be qualified and experienced in this field and capable of developing the training function within major retailing group, for wide range of staff, London-based. £2,800-£3,000.

MARKET RESEARCH EXECUTIVES

with relevant qualifications and broadly based experience in survey work and ad hoc investigations. Marketing or advertising background useful. One position is with a retailing company and the other is for a marketing consultancy and needs European language. Salaries £3,000 and £3,500 per annum.

JUDY FARQUHARSON LTD.

Stone House, 128-140 Bishopsgate, E.C.2
(Entrance in Roudsitch)

HEAD OF PUBLICITY

NIS Travel's Publicity Department does just about everything—publications, general publicity, advertising and press relations. So we are looking for a head of publicity.

You will be responsible to our Marketing Manager for a staff of three plus various freelance designers and photographers and a substantial budget. You will be involved in sales policy and product planning. Salary £3,000 per annum plus bonus.

You will be joining the largest student travel bureau in the world, a top-earning company which is part of the NIS Services group. The group has an annual turnover of £10 million and is expanding rapidly. You will have the opportunity to work in a dynamic and exciting environment.

Travel industry experience is not essential. You may have spent two or three years in a travel agency or publicity office, or a magazine or an agency, or in a similar position. You must be able to handle a lot of responsibility.

You'll start on around £3,000 plus generous fringe benefits (including private of five travel).

WRITE TO: PAUL CONNELLAN,

GENERAL MANAGER,

117 BUSTON ROAD,

LONDON NW1 2BX.

MANAGEMENT TODAY

A job can be broken down into many parts and a manager can be seen as a person who is responsible for the whole. This is a challenging and rewarding role. We are looking for a person who is motivated and has a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

SMALL BUSINESS

MINDFUL? We are a manufacturing company with a growing turnover. We are looking for a person who is motivated and has a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

GRADUATES?

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE POLICE?

Your career could be exciting and financially rewarding. We are looking for graduates who are motivated and have a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

Graduates are needed to help deal with the increasing number of crime. We are looking for graduates who are motivated and have a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

Promotion for the graduate to the rank of sergeant is possible. We are looking for graduates who are motivated and have a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

Whether you are in your final year or have just graduated, you are eligible for the scheme up to the age of 30.

For full details, write or phone: Superintendent, C. Rankin, 117 BUSTON ROAD, LONDON NW1 2BX. Tel: 01-634 6555, Ext. 109.

Practical training for overseas students. We are looking for students who are motivated and have a strong sense of responsibility. Salary £3,000 per annum.

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GENERAL VACANCIES

JOURNALISTS

The Central Office of Information is looking for journalists to research, write and sub-journalists who will make good leads in overseas newspapers. Our press list, which includes over 100 countries daily, has vacancies for men and women with a lively interest in projecting British industrial and political developments. There are two types of vacancy:

Post A—REGIONAL DESKS

Here we need all-round reporters able to follow up news leads, enjoy bringing urgent stories to life and work accurately at speed. The desks serve various groups of countries and there are opportunities for transfer to the Central Newsroom where work is on a rota basis with additional payment for shift work.

Post B—NORTH AMERICAN DESK

Industrial journalists are required who should be able to write clearly and concisely about newsworthy developments in British industry. The work involves preparing stories on the best of the new products available for export from British companies, for publication in the trade and technical press in the USA and Canada. There are also opportunities for industrial journalists to work in the Central Industrial Section serving all other areas of the world.

Applicants should indicate the post or posts for which they wish to be considered. The posts are graded Information Officer. Salary on the scale £1,181 to £3,813 per annum; in addition threshold agreement payments apply. Non-contributory pension scheme. Promotion prospects. For full details and application form please send postcard to Central Office of Information, Atlantic House, Room 53, Floor 1, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2PD, quoting reference number COI/OPI/AA. Closing date for completed forms 31 October 1974.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALANGLATE LEGAL STAFF have many years of experience in giving a wide range of legal services to clients in the UK and abroad. We are now looking for a legal staff from outside the UK to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the legal aspects of our business. Salary £3,000 per annum. Tel: 01-437 4250, weekdays.

ACCOUNTANT

Qualified accountant required for leading international business agency in W.I. aged 25-40, previous experience in international business. Salary £3,000 per annum. Tel: 01-437 4250, weekdays.

NATIONAL TRUST

Historic Buildings, P.A. Secretary, Age 25-40, previous experience in historic buildings. Salary £3,000 per annum. Tel: 01-437 4250, weekdays.

MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE

for retail shop in London. Good salary. Apply Managing Director, Box 2596 N. The Times.

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SUPPLIES MANAGER

for retail shop in London. Good salary. Apply Managing Director, Box 2596 N. The Times.

STATISTICAL MANAGER

London Engineering Co. Salary £3,000 per annum. Tel: 01-437 4250, weekdays.

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CURZON ST. MAYFAIR

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These internationally renowned

service flats are now being

offered for sale on long leases at

prices from £17,000.

Details of 1, 2 and 3 room apartments

and coloured brochure on application.

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HILL ST. MAYFAIR

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Internationally recognised service flats

in this fashionable Mayfair Street,

between Hyde Park and Berkeley Square

are to be sold on long leases at prices

from £17,000.

Full coloured brochure on application.

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rooms, £16,500 to £17,500; 3

bedrooms, £17,500. For further

details and appointments in

view, please contact:

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Five newly converted flats

in a quiet, Victorian house

with a garden. All have 2 bed-

rooms, 1 bathroom, fitted

kitchen, and bathroom. Prices

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pointments in view, please

contact:

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ORNWALL GARDENS, S.W.7

Newly decorated third floor

flat, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath-

rooms, 1 kitchen, 1 living

room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1

garage, 1 carport. Price

£18,500.

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pointments in view, please

contact:

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(OFFICE HOURS)

3 SUPERB MODERN

FLATS

Cherrywood Place, W.1.

1 and 2 bedrooms, reception

room, 1 bathroom, 1 living

room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1

garage, 1 carport. Price

£18,500.

For further details and ap-

pointments in view, please

contact:

WHITE, DREW & DROWN

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LLAND PARK GARRET

It contained, large study

room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath-

room, 1 living room, 1

study, 1 terrace, 1 garage,

1 carport. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

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CENTURY LIVING Lodge,

offered for sale, 2 bed-

rooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living

room, 1 study, 1 terrace, 1

garage, 1 carport. Price

£18,500.

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pointments in view, please

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EXCHANGE private part-

nership, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath-

room, 1 living room, 1

study, 1 terrace, 1 garage,

1 carport. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

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INGTON—Ground floor flat,

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

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DEILD RD., W.11. Unusual

bedroom flat, recently con-

verted with low service charge.

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

HARTFIELD, SUSSEX

17TH CENTURY FARMHOUSE

Recently fully restored and

modernised throughout, 12

bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

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Sx. Tel. 24478.

LONDON AND SUBURBAN

UNIQUE ARCHITECT

DESIGNED HOUSE AT

WIMBLEDON

In select residential area

close to Common and Village

detached, multi-level house

containing 3 bedrooms, 2

bathrooms, 1 living room,

1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garage,

1 carport. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

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FULHAM

CHELSEA BORDER

HOUSE WITH

STUDIO AND

GARAGE

Small recently built house,

4 bedrooms, double reception,

kitchen & bathroom & C.H.

Planning permission for studio

and large garage. Also space

for extra parking: see

character.

For further details and ap-

pointments in view, please

contact:

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£37,500 O.D.O.

AUCTION REMINDER

THE OAKS

18th Century House, 12

bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

For further details and ap-

pointments in view, please

contact:

01-629 2101

STATION

18th Century House, 12

bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

contact:

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WIMPOLE ST.

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bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

For further details and ap-

pointments in view, please

contact:

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PUTNEY

Exceptional 3-year-old mal-

sonette, in popular, small block,

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1

living room, 1 study, 1

terrace, 1 garage, 1 car-

port. Price £18,500.

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HAMPSTEAD

Unique spacious flat of 3-4

rooms, kitchen, and 1 bath-

room. Non-smoking. Ideal

for a professional. Residential

Construction Ltd. Tel. 933 0897

PUTNEY HEATH—A luxury

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Quality homes:

impressive addresses

Built with care at prime

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5 mins. to station, 40 mins.

to London. Large, 12 room

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1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garage,

1 carport. Price £18,500.

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FURNISHED LODGE

Very pretty lodge overlooking

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12 rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2

bathrooms, 1 living room,

1 study, 1 terrace, 1 garage,

1 carport. Price £18,500.

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pointments in view, please

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 27

GENERAL

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST IN MAYFAIR

Required for busy general practice of Chartered Surveyors & Architects. A bright, adaptable girl is required to deal with all incoming and outgoing calls, as well as maintaining a pleasant atmosphere. Exceptionally interesting and varied work. Salary £1,750 p.a. plus excellent benefits. Please apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

Salary between £1,500-£1,750 p.a. depending on experience. Apply to: Mr. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

ASSISTANT PAYROLL OFFICER

Required for the University of London General Administrative Office. Responsible for the preparation of payroll data, including salaries, superannuation and pension contributions. Must have experience in payroll administration. Salary £2,250 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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Are you a personality-plus girl, ideally over 25 with sales experience and a flair for presentation? We are looking for graduates to join our sales team. Salary £2,500 + Car. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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£3,000 p.a. and start a career in selling. Good basic salary plus commission and excellent benefits. Training given. Large group. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

INTERVIEWER

This is an excellent position for an experienced interviewer. You will be responsible for conducting interviews for a variety of positions. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

EXCEPTIONAL GIRL FRIDAY

Super girl, 20-30, to cope with anything and everything. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

APPEALS ORGANIZER

Required by National Children's Society. You will be responsible for organizing appeals for the Society. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

INTERVIEWER, 24-29, required for

W.I. specialists in advertising. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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Major corporation is looking for a person to join a team of 3 senior personnel who are responsible for recruitment and supervising 50 general office staff. World class secretarial. 20-30 years, with sound administrative background seeking the challenge of growth with career prospects. Please telephone 278 3033 for an appointment.

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Major employers at Victoria require intelligent girls to join their staff. Cash book, foreign payments, and general office work. Salary £1,750 p.a. plus excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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For a woman with a flair for sales. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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The City University SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Wanted now for busy Administrative Office. You will be responsible for the preparation of payroll data, including salaries, superannuation and pension contributions. Must have experience in payroll administration. Salary £2,250 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

ROOM 35, 17, THE CITY UNIVERSITY, ST. JOHN STREET, LONDON, EC4V 4PB.

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£3,000. An established financial group. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

Camden Council of Social Service

Our recently appointed Assistant Secretary is leaving to join a new organization. You will be responsible for the preparation of payroll data, including salaries, superannuation and pension contributions. Must have experience in payroll administration. Salary £2,250 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

CITIZENS' ADVISE BUREAU SERVICE

Our recently appointed Assistant Secretary is leaving to join a new organization. You will be responsible for the preparation of payroll data, including salaries, superannuation and pension contributions. Must have experience in payroll administration. Salary £2,250 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

Camden & Islington Area Health Authority

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An interesting vacancy exists in an international publishing company in Mayfair for a bright secretarial assistant with initiative and a good administrative background. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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An immediate opportunity exists for a personable, efficient secretary for a busy professional in the City near Bank. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Require bilingual secretary. Fluent French essential. Small congenial office close to Green Park. Please apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

SECRETARY

With good shorthand and typing for partner. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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With good shorthand and typing for partner. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

SECRETARY

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SECRETARY

With good shorthand and typing for partner. Good salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: Mr. J. R. Smith, 10, Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1A 3AA. Tel: 01-499 1881.

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Our offices are located south of the river within easy travelling distance from Victoria, Waterloo and London Bridge stations.

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